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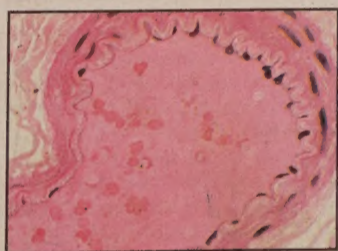
NEWS & FEATURES

- Hooked on **hookah**? Many students think that hookah is a safer way to smoke, but you might be surprised at what one group found, **A9**.
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Mayor signs tough new noise bill into law

By **KATHERINE KELBERG**
News-Letter Staff Writer

Mayor Sheila Dixon signed into law a tough new neighborhood nuisance measure last week that had stalled in the City Council since its introduction nearly two years ago.

Under the measure, residents who violate the city's noise ordinances — by acting disorderly, using loud profan-

ity or "making an unreasonably loud noise" — twice in a six-month period could face the threat of eviction.

Many fear it will be used to specifically target college students, but city officials say they are simply trying to promote the creation of a new community spirit.

"[It] reflects that you don't just have a responsibility to your property — you also have a responsibility to your neigh-

borhood," said Shaun Adamec, a spokesman for City Council President Stephanie Rawlings-Blake. "And it was written directly in response to neighborhood complaints."

According to Adamec, the ordinance was also designed in part as an alternate way to combat the city's metastatic drug trade. It provides the community with the power to report the unruly, late-night street gatherings that often ac-

company drug dealing and to have the dealers removed from neighborhoods, he said.

In hearings on the noise ordinance, City Council members agreed "unreasonably loud noises" included anything that could be heard from 50 yards away; a door slamming, someone playing with a baseball bat or students hosting a party.

As Adamec admits, "There are noises

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CultureFest showcases diverse performances



LAURA BITNER/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

Dancers graced the stage at CultureFest on Saturday. The annual festival highlights different multicultural groups. Learn more about the event on page B1.

Department of Education sets new loan policies

By **PATRICIA PUGH**
News-Letter Staff Writer

In an effort to increase accountability and transparency within the college financial aid industry, the U.S. Department of Education has released new regulations that reflect major policy changes regarding preferred lender lists and potential conflicts of interest between university officials and loan companies.

The student loan industry came under fire earlier this year by New York State Attorney General Andrew Cuomo, whose investigations revealed that Hopkins's own Director of Student Financial Services, Ellen Frishberg, had accepted at least \$65,000 in consulting and tuition payments from a loan company that was on the school's

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'Dump on the Quad' demonstrates lack of recycling effort in dorms

SEA sponsors event in preparation for college recycling competition in Jan.

By **HEATHER BARBAKOFF**
News & Features Editor

Something on the Upper Quad reeked. In front of MSE lay a blue tarp with dozens of bulging black garbage bags. Five students dug elbow deep into the nearest bag, wincing as they pulled out crushed water bottles mixed with used tissues. Someone pulled out an empty bottle of rum and tossed it into a pile of glassware; a freshman boy winced as he discovered a package of moldy roast beef. It was the Dump on the Quad.

Sponsored by Students for Environmental Action (SEA), Dump on the Quad was an awareness project directed at opening Hopkins's students eyes to the number of items thrown in the garbage which could actually be recycled. The

garbage was collected from the freshmen dorms — the AMRs, Buildings A and B and Wolman Hall — and SEA's members had volunteered for half-hour shifts to rummage through it all as "preparation for January 2008's Recycle Mania contest between colleges," said freshman SEA member Alexandros Athinos. The event lasted from 9 a.m. until around 3 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 14.

Recycle Mania is a competition between the recycling programs of colleges and universities across the nation. The contest's main objective is to raise awareness of colleges' recycling programs while minimizing the amount of waste. Schools participating in the program must strive to collect the largest number of recyclables per capita, the

CONTINUED ON PAGE A2

Colleges look to boost minority enrollment

Hopkins touts Baltimore Scholars, other diversity initiatives

By **LENA DENIS**
News-Letter Staff Writer

A new initiative posed by an organization of public university leaders will aim to cut the socio-economic and racial education "achievement gap" in half by the year 2015.

The University System of Maryland will participate in The National Association of System Heads' (NASH) new program, but as a private university, Hopkins cannot directly participate in this initiative. Instead the University has been working to create its own system to narrow, and eventually eliminate, the same gap.

It is "our responsibility," NASH Staff



LAURA BITNER/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR
Bill Conley heads the Baltimore Scholars Program, a Hopkins initiative to recruit minorities.

Officer Janis Somerville said, to close the achievement gap. NASH's initiative supports the attitude that equal educational opportunities for people from all backgrounds must be put forth in the interest of everyone, not just people from disadvantaged backgrounds.

The achievement gap refers to the difference between the educational advancement of students from low-income families versus students from economically privileged backgrounds. NASH's statistics showed that only nine percent of students from low-income families earn a bachelor's degree by the age of

CONTINUED ON PAGE A6



CONOR KEVITT/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

Jerry Taylor works at the Christian Science Reading Room at the Rotunda and leads Sunday School.

Faith and healing, meaningful pursuits for Christian Scientists

By **FARAH RAHMAN**
For The News-Letter

On the first floor of the Rotunda, there is a small room with homey couches and a plethora of books and magazines. On the window reads "Christian Science Reading Room." It is in this room where the Christian Scientists of the surrounding area go to participate in readings on the teachings of their faith.

Jerry Taylor, who heads the Reading Room and leads the Sunday School, said her faith is a science.

"The science and health book is a textbook, a book of rules," she said of Mary Baker Eddy's *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, which, along with the King James Bible, form the two main texts of the religion.

"If you obey the rules you can demonstrate it."

Mary Baker Eddy, affectionately called Ms. Eddy by her followers, founded Christian Science in 1879 in Massachusetts.

"Ms. Eddy dedicated this book to simple seekers of truth," Taylor said.

"Christ Jesus said you should know the truth and the truth should make you free. And the truth in my interpretation is the

spiritual sense. That's the truth — having the spiritual sense of yourself. And you walk as some transparent thing of God."

The Reading Room is active Mondays through Fridays and a librarian is always on staff to help the people find Biblical passages and engage in discussion.

The main beliefs of Christian Scientists are that healing comes by spiritual means, creation is entirely spiritual and matter does not exist. For them, God is synonymous with principle, soul, mind, spirit, life, truth and love.

Christian scientists refer to God as "Father-Mother" rather than the traditional "Father" because they believe both men and women were created in God's image.

Spiritual healing, the central tenet of Christian Science, posits that one cannot receive outside aid for sicknesses.

Most members of the Christian Science faith reject medical help for their diseases. Some of the members even refuse to get vaccinated. However, it is not the church that tells them to do so.

"You can't effectively work both ways. You're either going to believe that life is material or you're going to believe

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Hopkins escort vans leave students waiting

By **BYUNG JOON PARK**
For The News-Letter

It was a rainy Friday night when seven freshmen stood outside Wolman Hall, waiting for an on-demand escort van to take them to 22nd Street, where they had hoped to participate in a karaoke night.

After waiting 30 minutes for the "we'll be there in 20 minutes" van to come, Doh picked up his phone and called the escort van service again, only to receive a short, repetitive reply: "it's on its way."

"The van ... would never come as we waited outside in the cold weather," freshman Yuho Doh said. "We waited more than 40 minutes, and at least 10 cabs passed by us."

Although the van finally arrived after 45 minutes to pick up them up, the students who took the van were not happy with the service.

"We called multiple times, only to hear repetitively that it was on its way," freshman Jiho Chun said. "Had I been waiting for the van in front of the library to go home in the cold, rainy weather alone, it would have been horrible," he said, adding that "it was OK because we were together."

The escort van service, available to all Hopkins students, provides safe transportation to residential and commercial sites within one mile of the Homewood Campus. According to Lieutenant Steve Ossmus, the escort van service aims to provide a van to the needed location within 20 minutes of the time the student calls the office. Escort Coordinator Frank

Richardson did not respond to repeated attempts for comment.

"I think the escort van service is an integral part of the student life here at campus," freshman Ashley Kim said. "The vans can safely provide transportation. But I am not sure if the escort van service is meeting its original purpose because the vans have always come late when I needed them most."

Out of 40 freshmen surveyed in Wolman Hall who have used the escort van service at least once, 95 percent replied that the van took more than 25 minutes to arrive.

"I have used the van once," freshman Dom Burneikis said. "My friends and I got on one of the fixed-route vans that just came by us, but I have heard from other people that the vans come late. I do not use the escort van service not only because the vans usually come late, but also because they only travel within a mile of the center of the campus. I wish the vans took the students farther away from the campus."

The escort van service usually attributes the delayed waiting time to weather, rush hour traffic or other circumstances beyond their control.

According to the statistics posted on the escort van service website, more than 130,000 students and affiliates utilize the system annually.

"I just think that the escort van service should have more vans available to students," freshman Chris Kang said. "Although I do not use the service a lot, every time my friends and I tried to go off the campus, we had to wait a long time."

SEA raises awareness for dorm recycling

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1
largest number of total recyclables, have the least amount of trash per capita or have the highest recycling rate. 2008 will be the first time that Hopkins officially participates in the contest. The University had tried to take part in the event last year, but found itself unable to get the initiative off the ground.

The Dump on the Quad was SEA's attempt to begin raising awareness for Hopkins's involvement in Recycle Mania.

While it is early to start raising awareness now, "when people come back next semester, people might remember what we were doing," said SEA president, sophomore Connie Vogelmann.

The group sorted out paper, cardboard, glass and bottles from



LAURA BITNER/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

Among the bags of trash, sophomore SEA member Rachel Myrski locates items which were mistakenly thrown away.

the bags of garbage.

"At least when people walk by, they think 'what are those crazy people doing?' And then they'll see the signs and remember," Vogelmann said.



LAURA BITNER/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

SEA president Connie Vogelmann searches for recyclable materials in front of MSE.

Olmos's MSE speech postponed in light of writers strike

By **MARIE CUSHING**
News and Features Editor

In light of strikes in Hollywood, Edward James Olmos has postponed his speech with the Milton S. Eisenhower Symposium (MSE).

Olmos was scheduled to speak on November 8, as the last speech of this year's symposium.

"The event with Edward James Olmos is postponed and not canceled for reasons pertaining to the Writer's Guild strike," said Joseph Colon, assistant director of the Office of Multicultural Student Affairs.

Olmos "has committed to come next semester and we look forward to his wisdom and take on world issues," Colon said.

"We haven't set any concrete plans as of yet, however we are

definitely planning on bringing him in the spring," said junior Chris Louie, president of Organizacion Latina Estudiantil (OLE), co-sponsors of the Olmos speech.

"Obviously we're disappointed, being that he would have given a great presentation and ... always brings a great perspective on culture and society. However, given the circumstances we understand it was something uncontrollable," he said.

Contract negotiations broke down between the Writers Guild of America (WGA) and the heads of movie studios and television networks, collectively known as the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers.

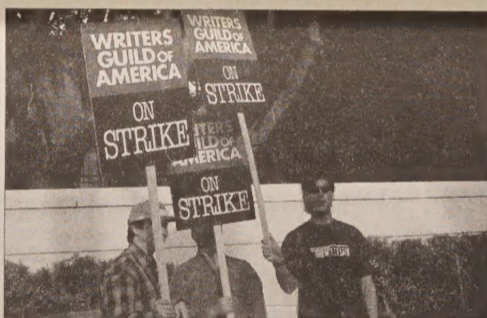
The main point of contention in the strike has been the issue of writers' payment for Web-created

ed content and digital downloads.

Olmos, a veteran of stage, film and television for more than 30 years, currently stars as Commander William Adama on *Battlestar Galactica*, a TV program on the SciFi channel.

According to Colon, Olmos negotiated with the program's production company in order to speak at Hopkins. This speech would have taken place while he was contractually obligated to be filming.

"When the film company got



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Supporting the writers' strikes, Olmos has postponed his visit.

the news, they mandated that the actors and crew finish the filming from the completed scripts they had before the strike," he said.

Securing Olmos as a speaker at Hopkins had been difficult despite his history as a speaker.

"OLE has been trying to bring Mr. Olmos to campus for about two years now ... for someone as active and obviously still very involved in film and media, it was expected to be difficult to organize," he said.

Louie hoped that Olmos's speech would discuss Hispanics' influence on American culture, and promotion of the awareness of racial and cultural disparities.

"The theme for the MSE Symposium this year was 'Renewing American Culture,' and it's readily apparent that the Hispanic influence has had immeasurable influence on contemporary American identity," Louie said.

In 1988, the entertainment industry lost about \$500 million after a 22-week strike by writers.

"Everyone is affected in the strike and production companies are not willing to lose monies, therefore after filming is done they will close down the studios until the strike is resolved," Colon said.

Ninety percent of WGA members who voted supported striking after negotiations over the three-year contracts failed, according to the *Los Angeles Times*. The WGA represents over 12,000 writers across the country.

"The organization in general was really looking forward to Mr. Olmos, as was the MSE Symposium staff and many members of the Latino community," Louie said.

"We felt that he was an integral part of the speaker series as he represented a crucial yet grossly-underrepresented perspective that has largely shaped cultural identity in the United States."

Hopkins makes first attempt to track private student debt

By **TOM ARTAKI**
For The News-Letter

The senior class recently received a survey requesting that they answer questions about their student debt.

The survey was sent out to the entire senior class in regards to the educational debt they will have incurred by graduation. The survey seems to touch on every form of official debt a student could acquire during their undergraduate career, but most important is the amount of debt incurred from student loan corporations.

As tuition rates have soared, so too have the number of loans taken out in order to pay them. According to *FinAid.org*, the average debt load of students among private universities is roughly \$28,000. This number, not surprisingly, is growing. Unfortunately, it also seems that interest rates on loans are also on the rise.

The tracking of graduates' debt has generally not been put into practice by national universities thus far.

According to Dean of Financial Aid William Conley, this study is not an official attempt by the University to track students' debt. Hopkins is participating in a broader study put together by "edventures," an educational based company, which is attempting to get a snap shot of students' debt after having attended upper tier universities.

Furthermore, Hopkins does not, at the moment, intend to administer the survey annually.

However, the results of this study will not go unnoticed by the administration. According to Conley, this will give Hopkins an opportunity to get a better idea of the debts acquired by students beyond official educational costs, particularly from credit cards.

With a better approximation of elective debts, as opposed to educational debts, Conley believes that the school could do more to educate students about financial responsibility, and ultimately about keeping control over personal finances and debts.

As far as using the results of the study to reconsider tuition costs and financial aid packages, Conley deems this unlikely.

"While we are always attentive to tuition increases, we are not in the business of reworking tuition costs to accommodate the market," Conley said.

As of now, there is no implied connection between this study and what will be done in the future to assess the costs of tuition and room and board.

For the University, the major point of this study is an indication of students' abilities to manage their personal finances.

Major changes to University policies, specifically in regard to financial packages and tuition costs, do not seem likely to result from this study.

ERRATA

In the 11/8 edition, Payal Patnaik should have been credited as a staff writer.

In the same edition, Max Dworin should have been credited with writing the article on women's soccer, and Asa Beal with the article on men's. These bylines were switched.

In the 11/1 edition, the review of the film *Into the Wild* was miscredited. The review was written by Natalie Berkman.

The News-Letter regrets these errors.

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NEWS & FEATURES

Things I've Learned with Richard Bett, professor of philosophy

Professor Bett, who specializes in ancient Greek and Roman philosophy, talks about his days at Oxford and the pressure to "publish or perish"

By MING WEN
News-Letter Staff Writer

Richard Bett is a professor of philosophy here at Hopkins. The News-Letter spoke with him about his life and what he does both inside and outside the classroom.

News-Letter: What you were interested in as a child?

Richard Bett: Well I guess my first intellectual interest, as a five year old, was astronomy. I was really into the planets and things like that, which is not exactly what I ended up doing, but I guess that's sort of the same broad questions about the universe, which is what people in philosophy are concerned with. I was into ancient studies as well as an older kid, and that is something I am still involved in in my research teaching here. I'm from England originally, and dug in one or two sites in Rome and Britain, but I fairly quickly decided I wasn't into the physical remains, but rather the written remains.

N-L: What was your favorite part of college?

RB: I wasn't that thrilled about Oxford, to be honest. I mean it was okay, it was very hard work. I made some good friends there. I learned a lot. But I felt Oxford was a bit of an insular town. I knew I wanted to pursue an academic career, which is why, when the time came for graduate school, I thought maybe the United States would be a good place to try, because that would clearly be a big change from Oxford.

N-L: Were there a lot of students from Oxford who went to the US?

RB: Not that many. There were a lot the other way around. This was the late '70s when I was there. There were a lot of American students in Oxford. I think there still are. This was the pre-Thatcher days, when the tuition was the same for American and British students. I met a lot of American students there and they gave me lots of advice about where to attempt to go to graduate school here.

N-L: What did you study there?

RB: I studied classics and phi-

losophy; it was a joint undergraduate degree.

N-L: How did you get into philosophy, formally speaking?

RB: In high school I read a little bit of Plato and things like that as part of my ancient studies. This degree I did as an undergraduate, that was how it was structured: If you did classics you also had to do some philosophy. It's like a very ancient degree, like 200 years ago, that was the only thing you could study there, and gradually some other fields were added. But they still had this relic field.

N-L: Where did you attend graduate school?

RB: Went to Berkeley. That was a real eye-opener. It was the change that I wanted. I had the choice of going to Harvard but I judged, correctly, I think, that Berkeley would be more of a contrast to my previous experience. That was in my early 20s, and that's when I moved to the US. It was a whole new world out there.

N-L: Were you looking for change?

RB: Oh yeah. Well not necessarily from England, but from Oxford, as an academic setting. As it turned out it was much more of a change than that. I mean, things have become more similar now, but at least in those days it was quite a big contrast. I graduated college in 1980s and then came to the US. From '80-'86 I was a Ph.D student.

N-L: Can you describe the surroundings of Berkeley, what it was like to live there?

RB: It was past the period of the '60s, but there were still some kind of throwback people who had clearly never left the '60s. Then, at least, it was quite easy for mentally disturbed people to live in that area because it was a pretty tolerant atmosphere and it was not too cold. I mean there were some people who had clearly been a part of the '60s radical movement and had never quite moved beyond that. But the mainstream atmosphere in the

college and the town was quite different from that.

N-L: You finished your Ph.D. What came after that?

RB: I got a job as a professor at the University of Texas at Arlington. That was not a big change and not a physically desirable place. I mean, the Dallas, Fort Worth area, it has the amenities of a large urban area, but the overall culture there was a certain anti-intellectual atmosphere, as in many parts of the United States, but it was certainly exaggerated there. In the culture in general, those of us at universities felt like we were sort of a little enclave that was rather different from the overall culture, which was certainly not true at Berkeley and I don't find that to be true so much here, either.

I was there for four years, taught a lot. It was a heavy teaching load compared to here. I started a career, and the job was okay, but when the change came to come here, there was no question that this was the better place to be.

N-L: How did you come to Hopkins?

RB: I published a few papers in my field, and was starting to get noticed by one or two people.

As luck would have it there was an opening here in this department for a person specializing in Ancient Greek philosophy. The person who was retiring knew somebody at Princeton who had just edited a paper of mine, this guy was sort of a mover and shaker in the world of Ancient Greek philosophy, and as I understand he recommended me.

The process took a while because they were looking for senior people, and I was pretty junior at that point. The senior person they were looking at, he eventually decided to not come here. And at that point the dean said, "Well I'm not interested in a senior appointment anymore, you can have a junior appointment or nothing," and so that's how they came to me. And so I've been here since 1991.

N-L: Since you came here, what have you been doing?

RB: Well I teach a whole range of things in Ancient Greek and to some extent Roman philosophy. I do an introduction to ancient Greek philosophy every year. I do, right now, an upper-level class on the later period of Greek philosophy. I do graduate seminars sometimes, I do freshmen seminars sometimes.

In this department we teach the whole range of students, from freshmen to Ph.D students. With us, it's a different kind of tradition. I enjoy teaching intro classes to people who have never taken a philosophy class.

Right now I publish things, I've done several books, some of which are translations of ancient Greek texts. I'm editing a volume of essays.

N-L: What is it like to edit a volume?

RB: It takes some arm twisting to get some people to contribute. They'll agree to contribute, you give them a while to do it, a year to write the paper, and they'll agree up front, "Yeah sure, I can do that." But when the deadline actually comes, then you get very few of them actually submitted. I've got almost half of them now. I haven't edited a volume before, but everyone always tells me that's what it's like. You have to do some harassing.

I'm sure you've heard the phrase "Publish or perish." All of us are expected to do scholarship, and if you're invited to do a paper, usually, unless you're really busy, then you'll probably say yes.

N-L: What is teaching at Hopkins like?

RB: Teaching at Hopkins is great in that the students are really driven. They are usually very smart; there are very few basic

writing problems, compared to the school I first started at. Texas-Arlington, that was a very different kind of thing. There were people who really did have trouble with stringing sentences together, and there's not much of that here.

At least at the undergraduate level here, the things that students are driven towards are not always the things that I am interested in teaching. They're driven, but they're driven to get into medical school, which has only an indirect relationship to the kind of thing that I teach.

There are going to be versions of that kind of issue everywhere. You wouldn't want huge numbers of people to go into some subject like philosophy. I think

that's very good. One thing that's very good about the American higher education system. In Britain, you go to university just to study one subject, whereas here you don't specialize until much later.

Some of the most valuable work we do in humanities is teaching classes to people who are not going to be specialists in that field but who will pick up some interesting ideas that will hopefully in some ways, form their life. We have a number of majors, and some of them, many in fact, are second majors with pre-med. Because having a second major in philosophy will show medical schools you are a well-rounded human being.

N-L: How is Hopkins's philosophy department?

RB: It's pretty good. I mean, we're small, as all Hopkins departments are. This guy does this report every year that ranks philosophy departments. We don't score as high on it as we might think we should, in part because that ranking system very heavily favors larger departments.

N-L: Is the department going to expand anymore?

RB: Well right now we're a little short-handed because we had two junior people leave, but we're planning to replace them. When I first came here it was nine people, but at its full strength it's 12. That's quite an expansion percentage-wise, but I don't think it's going to get much bigger than that. By some counts that makes us the second-biggest humanities department at Hopkins.

N-L: What are you planning to do in the future?

RB: More of the same, certainly. I also have a job with the American Philosophical Association. I do some organization for them, and I'm planning on continuing doing that for a bit. I'm not sure if I'd call this a plan, but I expect sooner or later they'll want me to be chair of the department, which is a different kind of job. Unlike a lot of academics, I actually don't mind administration; I actually quite like it, so long as it doesn't overwhelm all the teaching and scholarship. It's a rotating kind of position, so everyone has to do it at some point. I am probably less unwilling to do it than some other people.

I may do another translation. In ancient Greek you have to go very slowly and painstakingly. So basically more of the same.

The life of an academic is a very good life, if you can make it in a good place like this with a secure position. There are also a lot of schools that are not as good as this. There are a lot of adjunct hires these days, that is, people who don't have the kind of security that the tenure track does.

There are a lot of people, particularly younger people in the profession who don't have it as good, at least not for a while. And that's something that all of us, who are concerned for the future of the academic world, worry about. And not just for ourselves; it's not good for the students either, to have people who are running from campus to campus teaching a course here, a course there.

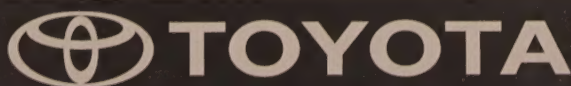
In this position, it's a great life, but there are dangers down the road for the academic field.

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NEWS & FEATURES

In their first year, doctoral students adjust to the demands of grad life

By JESSIE YOUNG
News-Letter Staff Writer

They made it through their undergraduate years. The weeks of all-nighters, rushing off late to class, completing their thesis papers; they survived it all. But now, now they're in the real world. Now, they are in the other seat. Now, they are the graduate students.

The biggest difference between undergraduate and graduate life, according to Dan Horn, assistant dean for academic programs in the Whiting School of Engineering, is the emphasis placed on research.

"While many undergrads perform research while they're here, they still spend a great deal of time on their coursework," Horn said.

"Doctoral students, after the

ing to Horn.

"Being a TA is a valuable experience I did both in undergrad and graduate school," said Holly Brown, a first-year Ph.D. student in the Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences.

"It definitely gives you insight into your own learning experience and the different ways other people learn new material."

Sociology graduate student Felipe Amin Filomeno, who was a TA as an undergrad as well, is looking forward to teaching for a different reason. Filomeno, who was a lecturer for two years in his native experience, looks forward to the challenge posed by teaching students in a different country.

"I am curious about the profile of Hopkins's undergrads, in terms of their knowledge and commitment to study," he said.

Another distinction between undergraduate and graduate life is the closeness of students with students and faculty within their departments.

"My relationships with my professors are definitely more personal and casual," Alton Hare, a first-year chemistry Ph.D. student, said. "I feel more comfortable with them."

Classes at the graduate level tend to be smaller and composed of students involved in studying the same fields, meaning that students in the same departments will end up taking many classes together. Many also collaborate on research projects.

Indeed, particular departments' specialties and professors' research draws many students to Hopkins.

"[I came to Hopkins] because outstanding scholars in my field of research are faculty members of Hopkins' Department of Sociology — (namely, Professor Giovanni Arrighi and Professor Beverly Silver)," Filomeno said.

Kate Vickery, another Sociol-

ogy grad, was interested in a different aspect of the program.

"The department has a program in Cross-National Sociology and International Development (PCSID), which I was very attracted to since I have been interested in international development since doing an internship with the World Bank and spending my junior year in Thailand with the International Sustainable Development Studies Institute," she said.

Most Homewood grad students come straight from an undergraduate or a masters program, though some take time off before heading back to school. This creates different challenges for students in making the transition.

For Noel Davison, a student in the Department of Biomedical Engineering, the culture shock was a significant aspect of his transition.

"I think I'm still transitioning," said Davidson, who completed his undergrad work at the University of Florida.

"After going to a big state school with outrageously successful athletics, the entire mindset and culture of Hopkins is different. But if you have a strong self-identity you realize where you go to school doesn't define who you are or what you like to do."

For history student Khalid Kurji, it was the both the academic and social lives that were significant changes.

"It's ridiculously different, in terms of workload, expectation and intellectual environment," Kurji said.

"I read probably eight times more per week than I did in my busiest semester at Duke, and am expected to be able to understand, analyze, connect and re-work the readings at an exponentially higher level. The difference is akin to being asked to swim a length at the local gym, and to swimming the entire Atlantic."

The transition may be even harder for students who have taken time off from school to

work before coming back.

"I didn't take a year off or work in industry before I came here, unlike most of the other students in my department who've had at least a year or so in industry experience," said Aaron Abramowitz, a student of security informatics. Continuing school in this way allowed him to retain his understanding of how to do school-work.

"The people who don't take time off still get used to the idea of writing papers and doing projects and all these things that you don't really do when you're working," he said.

The academic transition was also smooth for Filomeno, who already knew that he wanted to "pursue an academic career and had a notion of the research program [he] would like to contribute to as a scholar."

"Besides, I already held an M.Sc. degree before entering the graduate program in Sociology at Hopkins," he said.

Mike Lanci, a chemistry student, explained there are few changes between undergrad and grad during the first fall semester in the chemistry department.

"The first year students are not required to join a lab until December or January and they only have to take four classes, TA one course and be entertained by faculty and other graduate students until they join a lab," he said.

The social aspect of being a graduate student is also a little jolting for some students. Students admit that while students in their respective departments are closer together, this inhibits the interdepartmental socializing that is present as an undergrad.

"I appreciate the small class



JESSIE YOUNG/NEWS-LETTER PHOTOGRAPHER
Kate Vickery was attracted to the international relations aspect of sociology graduate studies.



JESSIE YOUNG/NEWS-LETTER PHOTOGRAPHER
Aaron Abramowitz felt not taking a year off helped him in his first year as a graduate student.

size here, but at the same time, I think you lose a little bit in terms of being able to support one another and the feeling of camaraderie," said Amy Guminski, a chemistry Ph.D. candidate. "Basically every week here just feels like the crazy stressful weeks in undergrad that happened maybe once a month. So yes, it's harder, but I expected that and it should be," she said.

In regards to the specific coursework of graduate school, some students find classes similar to undergraduate classes. The challenge is juggling classes with other aspects of graduate life such as research, teaching, working and living on their own.

"The workload is comparable to my upper-level undergrad classes, but with working in a lab at the same time and now living on my own, there seem to be too few hours in the day," Guminski said.

For others, work for graduate level classes is very different from work they had as undergraduates, in terms of time consumed and expectations.

Patrick Fessenbecker, a first-year English Ph.D. student, finds himself reading much more than he did before.

"I'm used to taking a million

classes and a bunch of extracurricular activities and scrambling to get everything done, so making time to sit down and read 200 pages of Whitman scholarship is new for me," he said.

There are fewer written assignments, and more assignments geared to thinking and research, he said.

Abramowitz had to make a large adjustment when it came to class durations. For graduates, classes are usually once a week and last several hours.

"Overall though, the classes are much smaller and that is nice," he said. "In addition, the material is much more interesting, which is a huge bonus after four years of undergraduate work."

The University has options that aim to provide various services to help students make the transition, both academically and socially.

Students can turn to faculty advisors and departmental administrators, and offices and organizations such as the Office of International Students and Scholars Services and the Graduate Representatives Organization (GRO) for help.

— Max McKenna contributed to this report.



JESSIE YOUNG/NEWS-LETTER PHOTOGRAPHER
Dan Caselden studies Security Informatics as a first-year graduate student.

first year or two, focus much more heavily on their research projects and on working very closely with their advisors. In many ways, grad students are the lifeblood of the Hopkins research community."

Though some grad students may have worked as teaching assistants during their undergraduate career, there is often a larger teaching component to the graduate experience, which helps prepare them for entry into positions as faculty members, accord-

The Johns Hopkins News-Letter



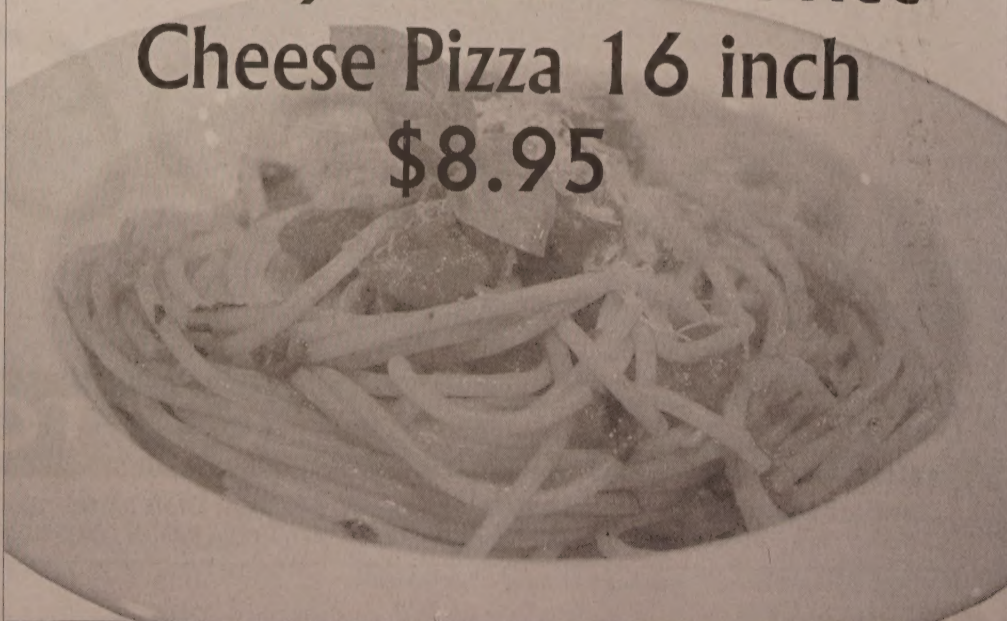
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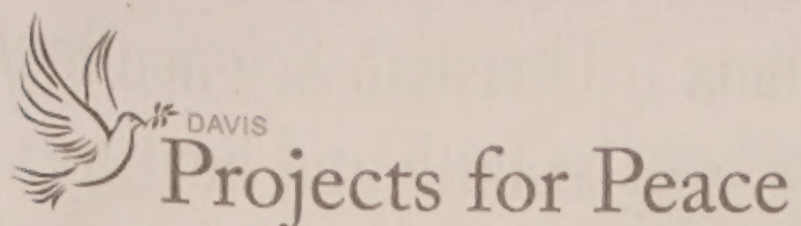
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ANNOUNCING...

100 PROJECTS FOR PEACE

100 Projects for Peace is an invitation to all undergraduates to design grassroots projects that they will implement during the summer of 2008. A "project for peace" is to be worldwide in impact, but may be based in Baltimore or the United States. Creativity, innovation, and entrepreneurship are all that is required!

Johns Hopkins University is one of 76 institutions in the Davis United World College Scholars program. Kathryn Wasserman Davis has chosen to celebrate her centennial birthday by committing \$1,000,000 for motivated students who want to try out their own ideas for building peace in the 21st century.

The most promising and doable proposals will be selected for submission by a panel of JHU deans, faculty, and students. All participating students and/or student groups will be invited to take part in a Hopkins Peace Talks retreat and poster session. At least one, but not more than three Johns Hopkins proposals will be awarded \$10,000 each by 100 Projects for Peace/Davis-UWC.

The deadline for the first screening of Hopkins submissions will be December 15, 2007. Semifinalists will be selected by the panel.

Finalists will be asked to present their proposals to the panel at the end of January 2008. Interested applicants should contact Bill Tiefenwerth, Director of the Center for Social concern at x64777 or btief@jhu.edu for submission guidelines. Online information – www.kwd100projectsforpeace.org



"I want to use my 100th birthday to help young people launch some immediate initiatives- things that they can do during the summer of 2008- that will bring new thinking to the prospects of peace in the world."

- Kathryn Wasserman Davis, philanthropist

NEWS & FEATURES

Dept. of Edu. releases new loan regulations

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1
recommended lenders list. Hopkins immediately suspended all lists of recommended lenders in the wake of Cuomo's investigation.

The Department of Education claims that these new regulations will prove to be a step toward creating greater transparency of student loan programs, ensuring free choices for borrowers and restoring confidence in financial aid services and programs.

According to Bill Conley, interim director of Student Financial Services, the controversy surrounding the preferred lenders list is still prevalent at Hopkins. Although they previously told the *News-Letter* that instituting a new preferred lenders list would merely require a national consensus on regulations, the University now says that it will remain without an official list for the foreseeable future.

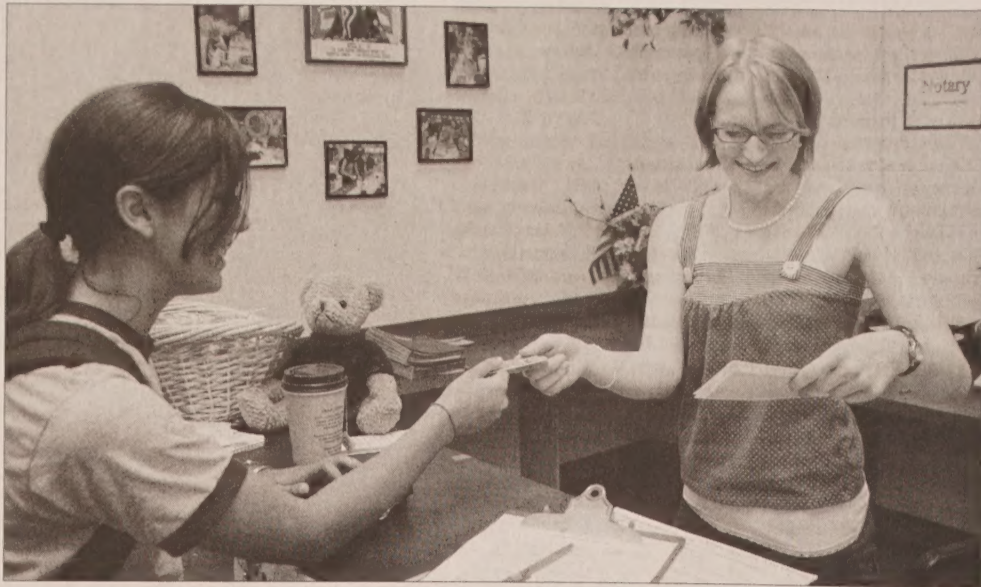
"In the current climate, the appearance of a conflict of interest is present," Conley said.

The "shadow" of the Cuomo investigation is still falling on the financial aid office, according to Conley, so the office is determined to prove that they are not "in the pockets" of big lending companies and can still provide fair and beneficial options to students.

The new national mandates, which go into effect next July, do not prohibit preferred lenders lists, but require universities to include no fewer than three lenders on any such list. They must also provide full disclosure of the criteria used for placing them on the list, and schools are explicitly forbidden from including companies that have offered them financial incentives for their inclusion.

Last year, Hopkins only had a general conflict-of-interest policy, "Statement of Behavior in Contractual Relationships," that applied to the University as a whole, not specifically to financial services. As reported by the office of Sen. Edward Kennedy, Frishberg received a total of at least \$130,000 in undisclosed financial benefits during her 18-year tenure at Hopkins. She had also served in advisory capacities to lending companies, though these were generally approved by the University at the time.

These new regulations



A student picks up her paycheck from Student Financial Services, which is operating under new guidelines this year.

explicitly define what constitutes a permissible relationship between lenders and academic institutions. As the guidelines state, prohibited behavior on the part of the lender includes "solicitation of an employee of a school or school-affiliated organization to serve on a lender's advisory board" and "payments or other benefits to a school, any school-affiliated organization or to any individual" in exchange for offering the loan company's services at the school. Schools may not discourage students from pursuing loans that are not on the preferred lenders list in any way.

The Department of Education is somewhat limited in its ability to oversee and monitor adherence to these regulations.

"The Department has very limited statutory authority and a high threshold is required to meet in order to bring enforcement action to a school, lender, guaranty agency or other third party," former Dept. press secretary Katherine McLane said in an August press release.

However, Secretary Spellings revealed in an Oct. 31 conference call with members of the press that the Department is making an effort to increase universities' awareness of the new federal expectations regarding financial aid practices. Over the summer, in anticipation of the release of these regulations, the Department

sent letters to 921 schools that distributed 80 percent or more of their loans through a single lender. The letters asked for specific information to ensure that the nature of the relationship between the lender and the school was not monopolistic or based on relationships that would violate the new regulations.

"We obviously intend to act on that accordingly as that information materializes," Secretary Spellings said during the conference call.

In an effort to compensate for the lack of official guidance in selecting lenders for Hopkins students, the financial aid office is pursuing a policy of increasingly proactive advising.

According to Conley and Anita Dinwiddie, special assistant to the Director of Student Financial Services, more counseling will be available to students and parents looking to take out loans. Financial aid officers will be available to look up the aid records of students needing assistance with loan applications to ensure that the students are choosing the most suitable options and are not overextending themselves in terms of their ability to pay interest rates.

Hopkins's recommended lenders list featured loan companies whose loans were subject to federal regulation. However, in the vacuum of guidance created by the lack of

a list, Dinwiddie warned that entirely private loan companies, which are not subject to governmental regulation and tend to have higher interest rates than federal loans, might try to hone in on students and parents who may not feel as certain about where to turn for loans.

"They are aggressively marketing their products," she said.

This indirect result of the negative attention paid to preferred lenders lists is another factor in the financial aid office's desire to "do a better job of giving people a framework for choosing loans," Conley said. We're in a transition period," he said. "We don't want to take chances."

The office of Student Financial Services is still interviewing candidates to replace Frishberg. According to Dinwiddie, they expect to have the job filled by early 2008.

Press representatives of Attorney General Cuomo's office could not be reached for comment on the regulations.

Christian Science looks at faith and healing

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1
it's spiritual. And it's hard to have the medical help because God created you in his image and likeness. And that image doesn't have problem that needs to be fixed," Taylor said.

Taylor has not received any medical attention for 50 years.

"I haven't had any help at all and I have gone through some hard times," she said.

The idea of spiritual healing might be cause for controversy at Hopkins, an institution with a top-ranked medical school, hospital and medical research facilities.

There are currently nine Hopkins students registered as Christian scientists with the Interfaith Center.

But Christian Scientists, and the First Church of Christ, Scientist, across from Homewood Field, have no problem being so close.

"We respect wholly the individual. We do not have a problem being so close to Hopkins," said Taylor.

Not all Christian Scientists follow such a strict spiritual healing regimen as Taylor.

"It's like any other religion, and it's on an individual basis. The church doesn't tell you what to do," Taylor said.

The First Church of Christ, Scientist, holds services every Sunday. The service begins with a hymn and then a scriptural selection. Afterwards the group does a silent prayer and then does a spiritual interpretation of the prayer. Then there is a subject of the lesson-sermon which is discussed and then a reading from the text. The service ends with a benediction.

Students and followers do a systematic study of the lessons leading up to the read on Sunday. By Sunday most of the churchgoers have a through idea of what will be read.

"We've had some contact with

Hopkins in the past, but not that much recently," Taylor said.

There is no central clergy in Christian Science, but rather different ministries.

Christian Science practitioners belong to the Healing Ministry. The practitioners determine whether or not "healing" has taken place in an individual.

Followers who have claimed that they have been healed have to be validated by an authentic Christian Science practitioner.

There is also another ministry, called the readers, who are elected every three years by the followers conducting the services.

Worldwide, the denomination claims between 150,000 and 400,000 followers.

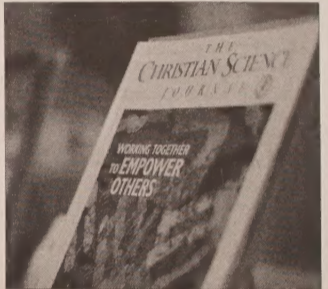
"Christian Science is all over the world, in every country. It's been translated into 15 different languages," Taylor said.

"There isn't a big following here in Maryland, probably because of the medical institutions near by."

But Taylor and other Christian Scientists believe that Christian Science is truly a healing religion.

"We don't see God, we feel God and that's healing," Taylor said.

"When you feel good you're feeling God, and you build up this consciousness of the spiritual sense of things."



CONOR KEVITT/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR
The *Christian Science Monitor* is a widely-read publication.

Few students have opted for text alerts

By MAX MCKENNA
News & Features Editor

Less than one-third of the student body has registered with the text message alert system instituted at start of the school year.

The Johns Hopkins Emergency Alert (JHEA) system is one of many text message alert systems instituted on campuses across the country following the shooting at Virginia Tech last April.

"The best case scenario that we want to work towards is to get everyone signed up; however, in the real world 100 percent is not realistic," said Edmund Skrodzki, executive director of Safety and Security.

Security sent e-mail notifications to inform students, faculty, staff and parents of the system.

Since then, security has been working closely with the deans, administrators and the office of Communications and Public Affairs to raise awareness of the system, Skrodzki said.

"Presently, we're working with the Student Council leadership to encourage greater student participation, and distributing fliers at our bi-monthly Campus Security meet-and-greet sessions," Skrodzki said.

Despite efforts to raise awareness on the program, students remain unaware of how to register.

"The difficulty the deans are having is identifying the best way to get information to students," said Susan Boswell, dean of students.

"It's definitely worth signing up for but I just don't know how to," Nathan Kirkpatrick, a freshman major in biophysics, said.

"If we were all e-mailed the link again, I'd definitely sign up."

Molly Ronan, a sophomore classics major, echoed the sentiment.

"I don't know how to sign up," she said.

"I don't know if I have enough

motivation to search the Web site and find where to sign up."

"Many students have said they do not know about it," Boswell said.

"No one expressed a particular concern about signing up once they were aware of it."

Mary Ellen Pozo, a senior biomolecular engineering major, signed up after the initial e-mail notification.

"I thought that it was a nice integration of security into student life," she said.

"I thought, 'Why not?'" said Ravy Vajravlu, a senior biomolecular engineering major.

"I signed up because if something were to happen, it would be important to know if there was a dangerous situation."

University of Maryland, Baltimore, which uses a similar system, has also suffered low registration rates.

Despite a combined student body of over 5,000, UMB has a little over 1000 students registered with the program, according to Robert Rowan, assistant vice president for facilities management and head of the UMB's Emergency Management Team.

"We suspect [students do not sign up] because they already feel safe and think registration is unnecessary," he said.

"Also, they do not want any more spam going to their phones."

UMB has taken steps to promote awareness, including coordinating with their student council and addressing it at orientation.

"Unless there is a major incident, we suspect registration might go as high as 20 percent but not much higher," Rowan said.

"My cousin is a freshman at a school in New York where they had a gun incident," Ned McCague, a senior English major who signed up with the program, said.

"That was definitely a contrib-

uting factor to my registration."

Signing up for the system is voluntary. Skrodzki said the University cannot require students who own cell phones to pay the cost that their cellular service providers charge to receive a text message, and therefore cannot make registration mandatory.

"We also cannot require students to own cell phones," he said.

"We discussed making [signing up] mandatory but have not agreed on an enforcement method," Boswell said.

Rowan said UMB also elected to make the system voluntary because of the potential cost of receiving text messages, and because a number of students do not have access to text capable phones.

"The cost of text messages isn't a big deal," Kirkpatrick said.

"Everyone I know my age is on a text messaging plan."

"I don't know if I get charged," Vajravlu said. "I'm not really worried about that."

To him, the only reasons students would not register with the system are because they are unaware or do not feel like making the effort.

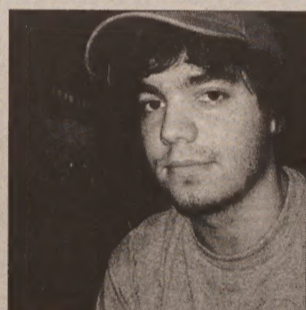
"I find hard to believe that people would be opposed to it," he said. "It can't be a question of money. I know many students who text message."

The JHEA system allows Safety and Security to rapidly transmit a short text message to wireless telephone devices in the event of a major emergency.

This message will alert students to the existence of the emergency, provide them with brief information they need to know immediately and direct them to other University resources for more information and instructions.

There are currently 1,709 students who have registered, according to Skrodzki.

Hopkins Student Activists



COURTESY OF SHANE WOOLWINE

- SHANE WOOLWINE-
Year: Senior
Position: President,
Engineers Without Borders

The Johns Hopkins News-Letter (NL): What does your organization do, both nationally and on campus? Are there any on-campus projects that your group does to help raise awareness for your cause?
Shane Woolwine (SW): Engineers Without Borders partners with communities in developing nations to improve their quality of life through the implementation of environmentally and economically sustainable engineering projects, while developing internation-

ally responsible engineering students. EWB-JHU starts by developing student awareness of the struggles of the developing world and training students to address these struggles.

NL: What do you think a student activist does? How do you fit into this mold? Is there anything unique to being a student activist?

SW: A student activist should be more than just a member in a crowd, or a voice. A student activist needs to not only inspire action but be the action itself. Engineers without Borders is unique because it follows a voice with real action. Real projects with real people and real results in the developing world.

NL: How does your group raise awareness for your cause? Is there more that you wish you could do to inspire Hopkins students to action?

SW: Engineers without Borders is unique in that it allows students to see communities and their struggles first hand. Anyone who watches television can see the struggles of the developing world. Many students already have a passion to not accept what they see in the news, but to change it. EWB allows students to get involved in this struggle. Over the past three to four years, students' lives have changed by their work.

As people see this and see what we are doing, awareness is raised.

NL: How did you become involved in your cause?

SW: I was tired of the mentality that college students are ill-equipped and ill-trained to make any real change in the world. The world views college students as a voice, a member in a crowd. They see us in riots after losing or winning football games. They see us stumbling after parties. They see us as young and immature. It was this passion to see a different kind of college student changing the world that caused me to join EWB. A student equipped to change not only lives, but the view of college students everywhere.

NL: Who has inspired you to become an active member of the Hopkins population?

SW: The student body. Someone told me that they hated Hopkins because the student body was too apathetic. I wanted to prove them wrong.

NL: What will your group strive to accomplish in the future?

SW: Our group strives to continue to impact the students around us while benefiting impoverished communities around the world.

The Johns Hopkins News-Letter (NL): What does your organization do, both nationally and on campus? Are there any on-campus projects that your group does to help raise awareness for your cause?

Aaron Martel (AM): STAND is a student anti-genocide coalition with over 1,500 chapters worldwide. Our main focus is on ending the ongoing genocide in Darfur, but we also monitor other areas of conflict, such as the DRC and Burma. Our Baltimore-area projects include the Genocide Education in Baltimore Schools Program and the JHU Sudan Divestment Campaign. We're also hosting the 2008 Mid-Atlantic Regional STAND Conference in February, which will bring in over 300 students from nearby universities.

NL: What do you think a student activist does? How do you fit into this mold? Is there anything unique to being a student activist?

AM: JHU is politically and culturally diverse — my role as a student activist is not to push an ideology or political agenda, but to build a consensus and sense of self-efficacy across campus groups. No one disputes that genocide is horrific, but the challenge is to convince students

and administrators that their actions have an impact on the violence in Darfur.

NL: How does your group raise awareness for your cause? Is there more that you wish you could do to inspire Hopkins students to action?

AM: When we tell students that Hopkins's investments may be linked to the ongoing genocide in Darfur, they are usually hearing it for the first time — Sudan divestment hasn't yet entered into public discussion on campus. STAND uses speakers, panel discussions, film screenings, cultural events, media connections, original research and direct marketing to raise funds and educate students about genocide.

NL: What could the Hopkins population do to become involved in making a difference? Not only in your organization, but overall?

AM: Hopkins students are active stakeholders in JHU, not merely consumers of education. Students should pursue a greater level of exchange with university administrators about JHU's social and environmental impact. Campus activism does not have to be adversarial to be effective.

NL: What will your group strive to accomplish in the future?

AM: Our goal for the next year is to mobilize enough student support to persuade JHU to



LAURA BITNER/NEWS-LETTER

- AARON MARTEL-
Year: Senior
Position: Director,
JHU Sudan
Divestment Campaign

adopt a "targeted divestment" policy in response to the genocide in Darfur. We want to demonstrate to the Board of Trustees and the president's office that Hopkins students take genocide seriously and are uniting behind our proposal. In the long run, we hope to contribute to genocide prevention through our education initiatives in the Baltimore schools.

New noise ordinance passed by City Council

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1
[that come with living in a city] that don't exist in a suburban environment ... But the ordinance is targeting habitual offenders."

Robert Turning, the coordinator of Greek life, worries the ordinance will be selectively enforced against college students.

He said that students, particularly those in fraternities and sororities, attract an unfair amount of attention for their parties.

"Because our members wear letters and call themselves a group they have a spotlight on them ... they're more recognizable than three women living in a random house having loud, disruptive events," Turning said.

Many students living off-campus have had problems with their neighbors in Charles Village.

Junior Rahul Wagh recently had to leave his apartment in the Marylander, an apartment complex popular among Hopkins undergraduates.

"My neighbor was an old man who would start banging on my walls if I had the TV or stereo on during the afternoon. Sometimes he'd even knock on my door saying that the volume was unbearable even though it was at a normal listening volume," Wagh said.

When Wagh started entertaining friends past 10 pm, the neighbor began involving the police.

After the second police visit, although both times the police admitted Wagh had in no way broken the law, he was forced to relocate.

"Morgan Leasing Company — the company that owns the building — gave me a two-strike warning for the police

complaints," Wagh said. "The Marylander has a three-strike policy, so I had no choice but to move out since the third strike was inevitable."

However, the University did not support the eviction provisions that the ordinance contained, citing that these provisions were unreasonably harsh to students.

"We also felt that a city which already has a problem with vacant housing ought not to be creating more by evicting people unnecessarily," said Amy Lunday, the senior media relations representative at Hopkins.

The University is also discussing the idea of creating a fraternity row as a way to curb the amount of noise complaints.

"If we were able to build a Greek row or Greek village, we could pull groups of students that will be having events out of the neighborhood. It's something that's been on the wish list of the neighborhood for a very long time," Turning said.

As of now, there have been no definite talks about these plans for a frat row.

"We just built Charles Commons, they've purchased the Charles and the Blackstone. The next things passed that are, hopefully, to finish out the freshman quad, relocate the baseball field — then a Greek village-type project will be at the back of that line. It's definitely something that's on the radar but it's pretty far off," Turning said.

Members of the Charles Village Community Association and the Greater Homewood Community Cooperation were contacted for comment. Neither of the groups representing the area knew much about the ordinance.

Enrollment initiatives to bridge achievement gap

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1
24, while 75 percent of economically privileged students do.

"We are supposed to be the land of opportunity and always moving forward. By not closing this gap, we are belying our heritage," said chancellor of the University System of Maryland William Kirwan. He is the system head for all public universities in Maryland except Morgan State University.

Yesterday the University of Baltimore held an all-day Closing the Achievement Gap conference.

Kirwan spoke hopefully about the conference, which was attended by representatives from the private sector as well as all grades in primary schools, as a forum for launching some state-wide initiatives to close the achievement gap.

Kirwan mentioned a specific initiative in private universities as well as public ones to award more full scholarships to students from low-income families (defined as families whose net income is less than \$40,000 per year).

There is active recruitment on a system-wide and institution-wide level for minorities, which distributes quite a bit of financial aid.

A prominent example is the Meyerhoff Scholars Program at UMBC, which gives minority students studying in the sciences full scholarships.

The program boasts a 90 percent graduation level and produces the largest number of black students in the nation who go on to get MDs and Ph.Ds.

Public universities in Maryland track the success rate of all minority students and survey graduates to see how they are doing.

Kirwan pointed out two main reasons for being concerned

with the gap, which he said has "grown enormously."

"We are in an era where getting a college education is almost a requirement for a good job and high quality of life. A high school education used to be enough to live securely, but that is not the case anymore," Kirwan said.

The achievement gap also refers to the typically lower education of under-represented racial minorities.

The same group of statistics showed that 18 percent of black students and 11 percent of Hispanic students earn bachelor's degrees by the age of twenty-four, while 34 percent of white students do.

"We are keenly aware of the financial access issue," said Dean of Enrollment and Academic Services William Conley. Conley is in charge of the Baltimore Scholars Program, one of the University's attempts to narrow the achievement gap.

He describes Baltimore Scholars as a "higher education access program," targeted not to any specific group but to recruiting students in Baltimore from economically disadvantaged backgrounds and giving them full-tuition scholarships.

Traditionally, Hopkins had only received applications from 30 to 40 applicants from Baltimore city public schools each year, out of whom an average of five students actually enrolled.

Conley was troubled by these numbers, which implied that most Baltimore students either do not think they can get in to Hopkins, or do not think resources exist for them to be able to go even if they are accepted.

Out of this concern came the Baltimore Scholars Program, which has been running for the past three years. Enrollment from the Baltimore area has increased since then, with 120 to 135 applications per year and about 20 enrolling.

This rate has now reached a plateau, Conley said, because the University "needs to have a broader pipeline."

According to Conley, the process of getting ready for an education at as prestigious a university as Hopkins needs to start for disadvantaged students, whether from Baltimore or from anywhere else in the United States, at an earlier level.

He cited the Center for Talented Youth (CTY) as a good resource for students to get to know Hopkins and see that "they too could make it there one day."

Despite their success, CTY and Baltimore Scholars Program have not caused a rapid turnover in education statistics.

"The channel's still not wide enough," Conley said. He said that the answer lies in spreading the word about opportunities.

"What we really need to do is open this campus to Baltimore City kids who can come here and talk to college kids and see 'you can get here,' even if it's a different prestigious university they decide to go to and not Hopkins," he said.

CTY Communications Coordinator Matt Bowden cited the Next Generation Venture Fund as another way of recruiting students from all over the United

States, not just in Baltimore, to an environment where they can learn and excel and get ready to attend a prestigious college.

Many of the students who attend CTY are from "economically depressed backgrounds and under-represented ethnic backgrounds," Bowden said.

"While we do not have such a targeted financial aid program [as the Baltimore Scholars Program] for other urban areas, we actively recruit underrepresented students from around the country," Conley said.

"We provide transportation and housing costs for economically disadvantaged students so they can attend one of our on-campus programs."

Conley said that the University supports diversity in the undergraduate student body so that students learn from each other and better understand different backgrounds from their own.

Conley hoped for a more diverse student population, especially socio-economically, in the years to come, and for programs like the Baltimore Scholars Program to become endowed programs.

He hoped that neighborhoods in Baltimore will prepare students to come to Hopkins and other leading American universities, because the ones who do come are often from magnet schools and already have an advantage from their public education.

"We've had a commitment for decades to try to diversify undergraduate recruitment at Hopkins," Conley said.

"We are all trying to raise the aspiration level of students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds."

Lena Harris, a freshman psychology major, is a Baltimore Scholar. She found out about the program when she was in high school and decided to come because of the University's prestige and the strength of the psychology department.

Harris said that her adjustment felt difficult at first when she got to Hopkins, but that Baltimore Scholars Night, which honored her and the other Scholars, helped her feel welcome.

She said that Hopkins did not seem to make quite as much of an effort as some schools do to recruit students in general. Once she arrived, however, Harris felt the University made her feel that she and other students of color were welcome.

"Students are very nice



COURTESY OF WILL KIRK
The Baltimore Scholars program is one of the various initiatives by the University to increase minority enrollment.

and everyone's willing to help you — in the places where the University faltered, the student body picked up. If I felt stranded because nothing have to do with Baltimore Scholars was happening for a while, BSU came right in to help," she said.

The Black Student Union (BSU) was also cited by other freshmen as a major welcoming force upon arriving at Hopkins.

"I knew there was a strong black community here," freshman cognitive science and Spanish major Mikki Lambert said.

She came for Discovery Days and liked the sense of community, which she said was reinforced by the presence of cultural groups on campus like BSU and events like the Student Success Series (SSS), held for multicultural students before the fall term.

Lambert said that most of the schools she applied to were of the same level as Hopkins as far as the number of wealthy white students they attract, so she did not fear

We've had a commitment for decades to try to diversify undergraduate recruitment at Hopkins.
— WILLIAM CONLEY,
DEAN OF ENROLLMENT
AND ACADEMIC SERVICES

being in the minority.

She said Hopkins made a better effort than many colleges she applied to in making students of underrepresented minorities feel welcome.

"They have pretty much something for everybody," freshman chemical and biomolecular engineering major Angela Brown said. She felt that the SSS made her feel welcome, and she likes being part of the National Society of Black Engineers, which takes engineers on trips to meet employers and holds other activities.

However, Brown was not fond of Colors at Hopkins or Discovery Days, which she said gave a more positive perception of racial unity at Hopkins than is the case.

"They kind of gave you a fake view," said freshman chemical and biomolecular engineering major Luwam Gebrekristos.

She thought the overwhelming diversity she saw at Discovery Days was overshadowed by the rest of the school's population when she arrived in the fall.

Gebrekristos came from a high school with about a half-white, half-minority ratio, so she is adjusting to the ratio at Hopkins.

SECURITY ALERTS

Nov. 10, 6:52 AM:

A driver was involved in an auto accident on the 3300 block of St. Paul Street. The student driver, who allegedly fell asleep at the wheel, drove onto the sidewalk and hit two trees, a light pole, a parking sign and a Hopkins emergency phone without injury. Baltimore Police officers, the Department of Public Works and Housing Maintenance and the Fire Department responded.

Nov. 10 at 5:00 PM through 7:15 AM on Nov. 11:

A hole was punched in the side of the elevator lobby wall on the sixth floor of McCoy. The unknown person(s) also attempted to pull an exit sign from the ceiling of the fourth floor, broke a sprinkler cap on the elevator lobby of the third floor and tried to remove a chair that was nailed to the floor of the dorm's Res Life office. Investigation continuing.

Nov. 11, between noon and 12:15 PM:

\$20 were taken from the wallet of a freshman. The wallet, which was left atop a security gate, was later found on the floor and turned in to security. The owner discovered the money was missing when he claimed the wallet. Investigation continuing.

Nov. 11 at 8:10 PM:

A vehicle struck the rear of an escort van that had stopped at a red light at the intersection of 25th and North Howard Streets. The vehicle that struck the van fled the scene, but was followed by a Baltimore Police officer who observed the accident. The driver was pursued to Loch Raven Blvd., where the driver was arrested. The arrested driver was not affiliated with the University. The junior undergraduate student driving the escort van declined medical attention for minor injuries.

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NEWS & FEATURES

News In Brief

Hopkins study shows poor in India helped by information

A study conducted by researchers at the Hopkins School of Medicine, the World Bank and Case Western Reserve has found a reasonably easy way to increase the health of populations in developing countries.

The study found that the simple solution is to inform the citizens of the many different services that their governments provide.

The results were recently published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

They predict that this knowledge would help encourage the underprivileged populations to take advantage of the health, educational and social services provided.

Developing countries, India included, frequently have federal governments which provide different service programs. These programs, however, are sometimes inadequately provided.

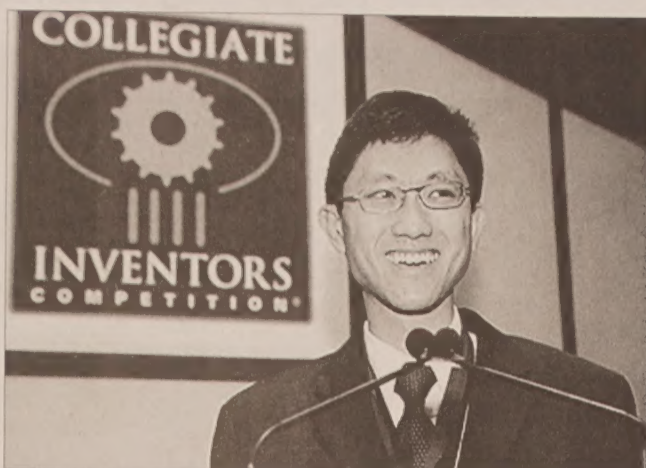
The research team hypothesized that examining how well the residents of the poorest Indian states were informed of these services was would affect the services' use.

The study was concentrated in Uttar Pradesh where fewer than 60 percent are literate, forcing researchers to devise an outreach program that could educate those unable to read.

The team used a variety of methods to educate the citizens, such as playing public service announcements about what services they are entitled to.

Drastic differences were seen between the control groups that did not receive educational intervention and the experimental groups that did.

The numbers of prenatal exams, prenatal supplements and vaccinations went up in the ex-



COURTESY OF WILL KIRK
Ian Cheong was awarded the grand prize at the 2007 Collegiate Inventors Competition at the National Inventors Hall of Fame.

perimental-group villages.

An intervention program such as this costs about 22 cents per household to run, with various methods to lower costs still being finalized.

The methodology used in this case study could be helpful for use in other countries as well.

— Heather Barbakoff

Postgrad wins top prize for cancer therapy invention

For using bacteria and drug-filled molecular capsules, a postgraduate student from the Johns Hopkins Kimmel Cancer Center has garnered the top prize at a national inventors competition.

Ian Cheong was awarded the grand prize at the 2007 Collegiate Inventors Competition, an event that was hosted by the National Inventors Hall of Fame.

The winners were announced on Nov. 1 at the California Institute of Technology.

Cheong and 10 other finalists had to present their work to a panel of eight judges.

While designing the molecular package, Cheong's initiative was to find a way to avoid damaging or otherwise harming the healthy cells while bringing the cancer-killing chemicals to the contaminated cells only.

Cheong's answer was to add specially bundled chemotherapy to bacteria which would attack tumors.

Before these "chemo packs" could reach the tumor, he also added genetically modified bacteria especially attracted to the oxygen-starved center of tumors.

This bacterium would secrete an enzyme, which Cheong labeled liposomase.

This enzyme would be able to melt the outer layer of liposomes to release their anti-cancer contents.

In addition to the award, Cheong will receive \$25,000 as a cash prize.

His cancer researcher advisor, Bert Vogelstein, will be awarded \$15,000 in prize money.

Cheong is originally from Singapore and has earned his doctorate in both cell and molecular medicine from the Hopkins School of Medicine.

He is currently completely his postdoctoral studies at the Kimmel Cancer Center.

— Heather Barbakoff

Colleges in New York to combat sexual violence with grant from Justice Dept.

Three New York colleges will strengthen their efforts to combat sexual violence, thanks to a \$440,000 grant from the Justice Department.

Albany Law School, Siena College and the College of Saint Rose will work with Equinox, a social services agency, to work to prevent sexual assault and provide victims with support.

Equinox will use the grant to hire a program coordinator and advocate who will counsel victims and assist them in legal action.

The program will focus on teaching students to identify and report sexual violence.

According to a 2005 study by the National Institute of Justice, only five percent of campus rapes are reported.

— Marie Cushing

Survey shows community college students not involved in education plans

Students at community colleges are not thoroughly involved with the planning of their education, according to a new report based on a survey that was recently released.

The Community College Survey of Students looked at more than 300,000 students at over 500 community colleges.

While 61 percent of survey respondents said advising and planning were important to education, only 43 percent had

In Other College News

met for advising within the first month of school.

— Marie Cushing

Thousands of bees swarm building at Univ. of Houston

A building at the University of Houston was dripping honey through its walls after being taken over by nearly 100,000 bees.

The University hired a beekeeper to safely and humanely transport the bees to an off campus wilderness location.

Beekeeper Mike Knuckey took seven hours to move the bees. He first pumped smoke into the hive to make the bees disoriented.

Knuckey was able to preserve both the queen and her eggs, making the likelihood of the hive's survival much higher.

The bees were first noticed by workers six months ago.

The swarm returned even after their hive was drenched with water.

Five gallons of honey were harvested from the hive. No one was stung.

— Marie Cushing

NU voted the most vegetarian-friendly U.S. college

Northwestern University was voted the most vegetarian-friendly univer-

sity thanks to vegan riblets, faux-chicken pitas and other similar meatless and vegan dining options.

The vote was sponsored by peta2, the world's largest youth organization dedicated to animal rights.

Yale University placed second in the vote, moving up from their fourth-place ranking last year.

The University of California, Berkeley was voted the third most vegetarian-friendly campus, followed by Humboldt State University, the University of Puget Sound and Brown University.

Placing seventh was last year's winner Indiana University, followed by Boston University, Georgetown University and the University of Florida.

Voters selected the University of Toronto as the most vegetarian-friendly college in Canada.

— Marie Cushing



COURTESY OF HTTP://ARKANSASNEWS.UARK.EDU
This isn't the first time that bees have swarmed a university. Here, workers remove the pesky insects from a building at the University of Arkansas.

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NEWS & FEATURES

To get the true Iggie's experience, bring wine

If you want to get the full experience out of Iggie's on North Calvert, you had best bring a bottle of wine with you.

With traditional and gourmet toppings, their perfectly crisp thin crust pizzas are a Baltimore favorite.

Their BYOB policy saves you money, as does the self-service style, which means you won't even have to supply a tip. Simply place your order, grab a glass, borrow a corkscrew and wait for your name to be called.

The menu is focused on mouth-watering pizza, but Iggie's also offers three choices of salads and three pastas.

Their mac 'n' cheese is reported to be an experience in itself, but I have not been able to tear myself away from the fabulous pizza.

Pizzas range from \$6.95-9.95 for an individual to \$13.95-16.95 for a large.

I highly recommend the Fung-hi, whose leeks lend sweetness to the rich mushroom flavor just as the goat cheese's tang creates a perfect balance atop a thin and crunchy oven-baked crust.

I also loved the Anatra, with duck confit, asparagus, red onion and blue cheese, but this is also the most expensive pizza on the menu, so make sure you're willing to pay the price.

More traditional options like the Margherita and the Quattro Formaggi are also available and popular.

A recent addition to the menu, the Patata, featuring potato, rosemary and pancetta, was an interesting peasant-inspired contrast to the more gourmet Anatra, but

our pie was rather salty and overly peppered.

If you order a large and just can't choose between two, Iggie's let's you just go halves. Still unsure? Create your own perfect Neopolitan slice of perfection by handpicking your toppings separately.

In lieu of tips, Iggie's chooses a different charity each month to which the customers have the option to donate, but there is no pressure to chip in if you're running a bit low on cash.

Dogs are perfectly welcome, but smoking is not. Take-out is an option, as are pre-made but uncooked pizzas you bake at home.

Once you've ordered, choose between the tightly knit four-person tables or the communal center island with stools.

The atmosphere is casual but vibrant and often noisy, with warm lighting, red painted ceilings and walls where art and hanging pots mingle.

I would highly suggest going with a small group, splitting some wine and a pizza, and finishing off with the Pera Saporita of pears, gorgonzola and balsamic reduction.

Plan to sit back and stay a while, because Iggie's is the perfect place to linger a little longer over your drink of choice.

Vanessa Simmons
D.I.S.H.

IGGIE'S

Location: 818 N. Calvert St.
Phone: (410) 525-0818
Prices: Moderate
Hours: 12 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Tuesday - Thursday; 12 p.m. - 10 p.m. Friday - Saturday
Transportation: 10-minute drive from Hopkins (about a \$10 cab ride)

Italy: finding amore when all you want is friendship

Sometimes I feel like the longer I stay here in Rome, the more unlikely the prospect of assimilating into Italian culture becomes.

The stereotypes surrounding American behavior seem to follow me wherever I go. They taunt any effort I make to constructively appreciate the urbanities of Italian mannerisms. And there is no way to be discrete or subtle about where I am from because it appears that everything about me gives it away.

Some people in my program have completely given up the hope that someone might confuse them for an Italian; others insist on ignoring or remaining utterly ignorant of the cultural differences, satisfying themselves with the comfort zone that has become their American group of friends.

I suppose I fall somewhere in the middle of these two rather bleak possibilities. I want to refuse to give up on trying to understand the Italian way of life, but the more I understand the more confused and befuddled I become. I sometimes find myself craving the unrefined normalcy of my college campus, and then I have to push myself to fight the inclination to want to be comfortable again.

Though this cultural adventure is often intellectually satisfying, it is personally arduous and often frustrating. When the complacency of my American peers is not enough and when the desire to explore and experience these differences is especially compelling, I am driven to find outlets to fulfill this sensation, but this search often ends unsuccessfully. The ultimate outlet for this anxious search would no doubt be the acquiring of Italian friends.

Because I am in Rome for the year, it is definitely necessary to try to establish a life of some sort here. And when do you feel more comfortable and more stable than when you are with your friends. Making Italian friends would perhaps work to explain many of the cultural habits I find to be mystifying and bewildering.

The interactions between men and women would hopefully be-

come more transparent, and with this understanding I would feel less like an outside observer and more like a one of the "cool kids," like an Italian.

Because the relationships between men and women here are an integral aspect of the foundation of Italian culture, understanding them is absolutely crucial.

And this of course is the most impossible and also the most intriguing aspect of my cultural adventure. Unfortunately one of the cultural customs I have observed is the failure of Italian men to approach women, American or Italian.

Of course this fact does not stand in a place like Campo di Fiori or one of the male-dominated clubs of Testaccio.

In these places, Italian men boldly scout for the traditionally easy American women studying abroad.

After watching the drunken parade of American girls entering a club, I am not surprised that such a stereotype exists. So though the making of Italian male "friends" in one of these places would be easy, you would have to choose from befriending one of the similarly traditional Italian sleazeballs.

As you walk into a club, Italian men actually line the walls, watching and anxiously observing who among your friends is the drunkest and therefore the easiest, of course.

It is very clear that these men



COURTESY OF HTTP://WWW.LMU.EDU
The Trevi Fountain in Rome would be a great place to go on a date, but sometimes you need a friend.

are incredibly aware of their allure as delicious Italian men and of the fantasy of most young American women to fall in love with a handsome Italian. And believe me, they use this to their advantage.

As they drunkenly whisper into your ear, "You're so beautiful," with that almost irresistible Italian accent of theirs, the temptation to melt into their arms is very much there. And most American women seemingly fall into this trap.

To some extent you have to say, who can blame them, but this game gets very old, very fast. An Italian groping you, no matter how delectable he might be, does eventually get unpleasant.

It isn't long before you want to meet a normal Italian man, in normal circumstances, like love at first sight as your eyes meet across the espresso bar (some fantasies are incredibly persistent).

But this is where the issue of Italian men not approaching women becomes a problem. If they aren't in a place where the expectations are plain and obvious, and where they are allowed to be cheesy and sleazy, they just don't do anything at all!

I can't figure out for the life of me how Italian couples exist at all. Men and women, especially of our age group, don't talk to each other, don't flirt, seemingly don't really interact at all. They are either friends with the expectation of being lovers or already are. How this transition occurs I have not been able to figure out... hence the need for Italian friends.

Right now, it really feels a bit like a vicious cycle. But I am determined to expose the secrets of Italian women and to engage non-creepy Italian men. Fortunately I am always up for a challenge.

Jessica Weeman is a junior history major studying abroad in Rome, Italy.

Jessica Weeman
Letters from Abroad

Learn the sex laws before getting frisky

There are some things you should know about federal sex laws: They're vague, sometimes contain loopholes and are rarely as entertaining as I'd like.

I find these laws to be totally reasonable and not at all preventive of a fantastic sex life. The only restrictions are ones that are reasonable to have in place anyway. You can still have kinky sex as long as you don't sacrifice a goat in the process and as long as you don't break any of the regular criminal code.

Quite frankly, the federal sex laws are some of the most reasonable statutes I've seen. It's the state laws that get obscure and unfairly restrictive.

Here's a summary of the intents to avoid, all taken from Title 18, Part I of U.S. Code:

Don't intend to commit a sexual act with a minor. Especially don't intend it while transporting said minor across state lines.

Loophole: Wait till she's 18. Or cease to be so bad at life. And don't worry about your girlfriend who's still in high school: There's a legitimate legal loophole for close-in-age cases.

Just for clarification and ass-covering's sake, a sexual act is very explicitly defined in Chapter 109A, Section 2246. The key word here is contact. Specifically, penis-vulva, penis-anus, mouth-penis, mouth-vulva and mouth-anus.

Keep in mind that the slightest penetration counts. Furthermore, sexual misconduct can include the penetration with genitals, hands, fingers or "any object" into the anal or genital opening.

Possible loophole: all those deviant non-pubic orifices.

Don't intend to commit an illicit sex act while abroad. Illicit acts are any sexual act with an individual under 18, regardless of what the age of consent is where you might have traveled.

Loophole: Pay the 14-year-old single mother and heroin addict to tell you, in detail, what she would do to you if it were legal.

Federal law defines a commercial sex act as receiving or giving "anything of value" in exchange for a sexual act. I hope I can "exchange" the guy in the

front row of my early morning lecture or a chair from the nearest common room. Your window screen could probably get you at least an hour if you bargain well.

When it comes to stalking, don't intend to kill, cause injury, harass or place them under surveillance. That's right, the U.S. Government won't let you stalk people if you're going to kill them later. You also can't intend to cause substantial emotional distress to the family or partner/spouse of the person you may be stalking.

Loophole: Be a benign lurker. Not a loophole: stalking your local sex columnist, no matter how mesmerizing her eyes may be.

You should also avoid "captur[ing]" an image of the private area of an individual without their consent" when that individual can reasonably expect privacy. That includes all visual and audio recordings, as well as the broadcasting thereof.

The private areas you shouldn't intend to capture are the naked or undergarment-clad "genitals, pubic area, buttocks or female breast (below the top of the areola)."

Loophole: man boobs. Hopefully you can control your urge to provide a bra and/or cry later.

It's pretty hard to imagine a situation when someone could take a picture of your genitals when you're not reasonably expecting privacy. Unless someone does a Marilyn Monroe impres-

sion on the air vent in which you happen to reside, you're basically indictable.

By the way, none of that applies to law enforcement, correctional or intelligence activity. Looks like I've got a new career plan.

Completing any of these acts, facilitating them or being an accomplice yields exactly the same punishment.

Intending to be a pimp in Maryland? \$10,000 fine and up to 10 years' imprisonment. Being a pimp? \$10,000 fine and up to 10 years' imprisonment.

The punishments are generally pretty reasonable — fines determined case by case, jail time anywhere from under one year (first time video voyeurism, for example) to 30 years (such as traveling with the intent to commit a sex act with a minor).

Loophole: Establish a small nation on one of the ice caps while they last.

If you're wondering, the laws about rape, prostitution, domestic abuse and child abuse are also in Title 18, Chapter 1. I'm not comfortable covering them, since I don't have the experience or resources to properly address the extremely loaded issues contained therein.

It seems to this columnist that there is never an excuse for rape and never an excuse for domestic abuse. There is no reason to claim that prostitution is a victimless crime, and never, ever is there an excuse for harming a child.

It's sad that there have to be such strict laws so explicitly enumerated and we can't just function on a general level of decency.

For those of us who do function on a basic humanist principle, the U.S. government allows us to have pretty fruitful and enjoyable sex lives.

So go to a frat party, have some legitimate and safe sex and pack up your video camera.

Grace Gwendolyn Henry is sorry that she violated the law stating members of the Nevada legislature may not conduct official business while wearing a penis costume. She can be reached at grace.henry@jhnewsletter.com

Grace Gwendolyn
Henry
That's What
She Said



Hook yourself up with hookah knowledge

Smoking is bad for you. No one debates that. It clogs up your lungs, fills them with tar, makes it harder to breathe, turns your snot gray and makes kissing gross.

Then why is smoking a hookah such a common alternative to cigarettes on college campuses?

Many people are under the impression that smoking a hookah is much cleaner and healthier because you're sharing the smoke with others and it has been filtered through water.

The taste is sweet and clean, and the consistency is less heavy. It feels like steam and doesn't leave much of a lingering odor, so it must be healthier than cigarettes, right?

Don't be fooled. Smoking a hookah can be just as detrimental to your health as common cancer sticks.

A hookah is water pipe that originated in India and then spread to the Middle East — thus the iconic image of old bearded Persian men seated on cushions, passing the pipe and exhaling hoops of smoke.

Most hookahs look like tall, oddly shaped hourglasses with pipes sticking out. The hourglass part consists of a bowl, a base and a hose. At the top of the hookah, the bowl contains the tobacco, molasses and flavoring collectively known as shisha. Atop that sits a burning coal.

The hose connects the bowl to the base of the hookah, which contains some water. Another hose sticks out of the base and is attached to the mouthpiece.

The smoker inhales through the mouthpiece, sucking smoke out of the base. Air travels through the coal and then the tobacco. The hot smoke travels down the connecting pipe into the water at the base. There it is pulled through the water, out the pipe and deep into the lungs of the smoker.

It is a common belief that when the smoke is pulled through the water, all the bad chemicals are absorbed, dissolved and in general filtered out. This is not the case. The hookah smoke is still filled with nicotine and carcinogens.

Many smokers experience light-headedness because of carbon monoxide.

In 2005, the World Health Organization released a report stating that use of a water pipe to smoke tobacco is not a safe alternative to cigarette smoking.

The organization reported that

those who engage in typical hookah use inhale more smoke than a cigarette smoker. This is because a session of hookah-smoking is usually much longer than the time it takes to smoke a cigarette.

On average, cigarette smokers take in around half a liter of smoke per cigarette over the course of five to seven minutes. A session of hookah-smoking may last between 20 and 80 minutes, during which time the hookah smoker would inhale as much smoke as a cigarette smoker would inhale from 100 or more cigarettes.

Another downside: The water in a hookah does not absorb enough nicotine to negate its addictiveness. Inhaling tobacco smoke of any origin is bad for you because the burning of tobacco produces tar, which builds



COURTESY OF HTTP://MEDIA.COLLEGE PUBLISHER.COM/MEDIA/PAPER
On the Beach or in a bar, smoking hookah is not uncommon for Hopkins students.

up in your lungs.

Nevertheless, smoking with water pipes has lasted as a cultural practice in societies for centuries. Young and old alike smoke hookah with friends and family on a regular basis.

But unlike addicted cigarette smokers, they don't get up in the morning thinking, "I can't get through this day without that one drag on the hookah."

Why? Because they smoke in moderation, once or twice a week, and do not hog the pipe like they need it to survive.

Cigarette smokers pause conversations to go on cigarette breaks and fight to drop their daily dose from five cigarettes to four.

Hookah smokers may look forward to that relaxing few puffs after dinner, but they surely do not bring a mini hookah to work for their lunch break. They do not depend on it.

Perhaps this moderation should be the idea behind all smoking — the occasional cigarette is much less harmful than a pack a week, and no smoking is less harmful than the occasional cigarette, or the occasional use of a hookah.

Lisa Ely is a junior biophysics major from Rockville, Md.

Lisa Ely
To Health With It

THE JOHNS HOPKINS

NEWS-LETTER

PUBLISHED SINCE 1896 BY THE STUDENTS OF THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

EDITORIAL

Silence is not the answer

City politicians have offered a number of flimsy justifications for the neighborhood nuisance bill signed into law last week, but their newest is a complete and utter sham.

Shaun Adamec, a spokesman for City Council President Stephanie Rawlings-Blake's office, told *The News-Letter* that the bill was designed in part to combat rampant drug abuse in Baltimore. Adamec says the bill will allow neighbors to report noisy, late-night parties at which drug-dealers supposedly gather to do business.

It's true — those loudmouth drug dealers and their unruly, up-all-night benders have been a city-wide nuisance for some time. If only they would learn to quiet down and get on with their business in peace, we could worry about more important things.

Sadly, we wouldn't be shocked if that's what the councilmembers actually thought.

Seeing that the city's virtual impotence on matters of crime and poverty has disillusioned the vast majority of its constituents — a dismal 12 percent voted in the Nov. 6 general election — members of the Council have decided to consolidate what little support they have by appealing to the sliver of the electorate that still cares.

That sliver generally comprises affluent residents in safer parts of the city, who seem to somehow believe that loud noises are more of a problem than rampant, drug-fueled violence.

But to avoid seeming as though it has wasted taxpayer-funded time and resources

— property taxes are, after all, outlandish in Baltimore — members of the Council have fabricated a politically opportunistic justification for the bill, one they have never offered in the two years of the bill's existence.

The *News-Letter* has consistently reported on this bill since its initial introduction in 2005, and at no point in our coverage have any of the members of the Council or its staff offered the drug-abuse justification.

We suspect that there are rather cynical political calculations behind the decision to reinvent a piece of legislation that has languished in the council for two years, during which voters have abandoned their "elected" leaders in droves and more pressing issues have gone woefully unresolved.

Sadly, we've come to expect this from city politicians. What we still fail to grasp, however, is why Hopkins has been so conspicuously absent on this issue.

University spokespeople have openly acknowledged the administration's disapproval of the bill, and yet they have done little to defeat it. In response to Rawlings-Blake's announcement in front of the former Phi Psi house last April that she would resurrect the bill, administrators promised to study it and form an official University response. It appears this promise has gone unfulfilled. We are dismayed that instead of addressing the serious problem of drugs and the resultant violence, the City has chosen to resort to petty oppourtunistic politics.

A public health threat

The recent report by the Bloomberg School of Public Health on the 2005 Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act (PLCAA) is eye opening. The PLCAA gives what is tantamount to immunity to manufacturers and dealers of firearms.

The issue of firearms is not merely a security or rights issue, it is a public health crisis. Over 30,000 Americans die by the use of firearms and 65,000 are injured every year. These exorbitantly high numbers cannot be tolerated. There is a controversial debate about firearms, and both sides have valid points, but there is one clear truth to the debate: People are dying.

Litigation can be a sticky issue. Many people abuse the legal system in order to get benefits they don't otherwise deserve. However, our nation has a civilian legal system for a reason. The legal system is essential as it offers accountability in our society. When automobile manufacturers faced litigation it forced higher safety standards in the industry. The costs of litigation provided an incentive for this industry to enhance the security of their products.

In America we embrace a market-based system. The freedom of business to innovate in this system is important, but they also have a responsibility to their customers and to society. The accountability provided by litigation is one avenue for citizens to pressure businesses to be more responsible and to account for the social costs of a profit-driven economy. The costs that litigation brings to businesses

will offer an incentive for business.

Guns will always be dangerous, thus, as long as gun possession remains legal, the firearm industry has a responsibility to make sure that their guns do not fall into the hands of dangerous people. The industry has a responsibility to track to whom they sell firearms and ensure that these weapons are not reaching the black market. While it is debatable whether keeping guns in the open market is a legal right, there is no right to tacitly support illegal operations and foster the success of both organized and disorganized crime.

There must be accountability in order to force the issue on the firearm industry. Where the government is not acting with regulations and setting the boundaries of the market, citizens must act. The beauty of democratic governance is that the citizenry possesses the tools to change society.

Understandably, there is a lot of pressure from interest groups and the industry itself, but the government must recognize the basic rights of citizens to find legal recourse to injustice.

A more constructive way of addressing the issue would be to set the boundaries of litigation. Tort reform doesn't mean the abolishment of lawsuits, but rather bringing reason to citizen litigation.

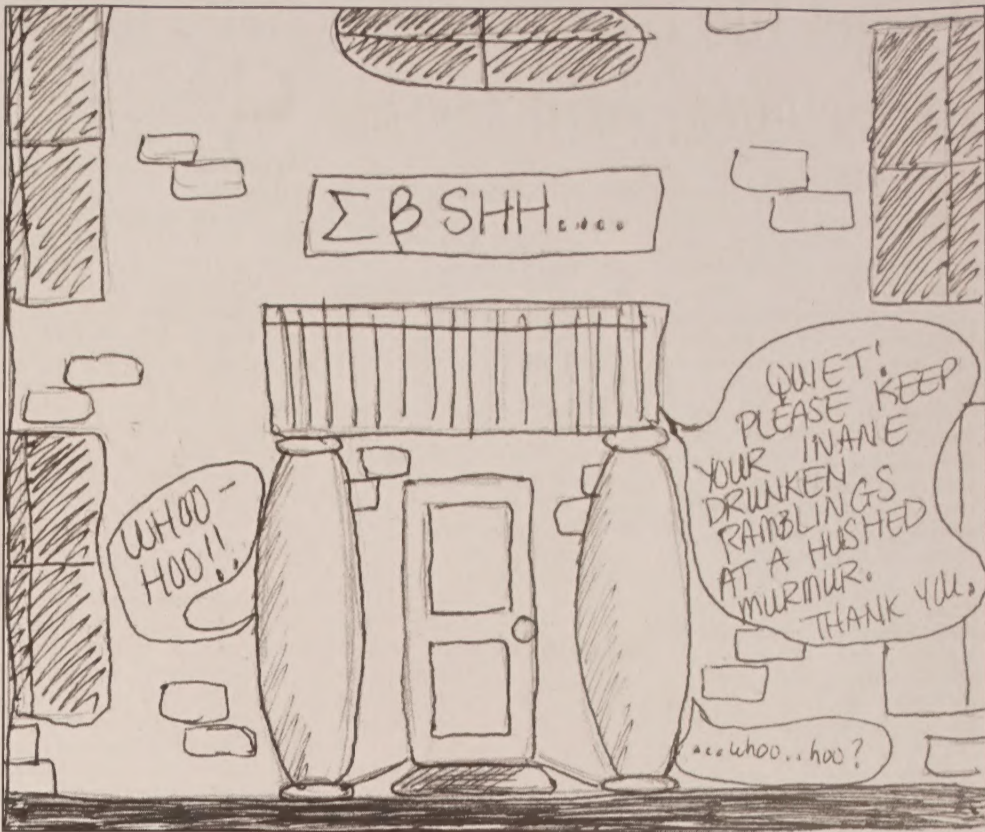
The crisis we are facing as a nation is simple. People are dying unnecessarily and we all have a responsibility to protect the lives of our neighbors.

However Hopkins is much more than a Baltimore institution, and the University's initiatives to reach out to underrepresented minorities and the socio-economically disadvantaged across the nation are promising. Through programs of the Center for Talented Youth (CTY), such as the Next Generation Venture Fund, events such as the Student Success Series (SSS) and by working with the Black Student Union, Hopkins has proactively sought to recruit a diverse student body.

Proving that attending Hopkins can be a goal to students growing up in disadvantaged conditions can go a long way towards planting the seeds for developing a more diverse student body. Even if these students do not end up going to Hopkins, they might be inspired to excel in school and seek higher education.

Such attempts should be respected, but, as always, more can be done. For example Hispanics are a growing national minority, but their already low numbers here at Hopkins are dropping. The issues of racial diversity and socio-economically disadvantaged representation at Hopkins are serious, but the University's initiatives have led to discernible progress.

Natachi Chukumerije



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Recognizing the dangers of the livestock industry

To the Editor:

Thanks to Devon Cohen for her excellent article, "To save the Earth, we must save the animals," in which she highlights the benefits of a vegetarian or vegan diet from an environmental standpoint. Since animal agriculture is the leading cause of global warming and other looming ecological catastrophes, we can significantly lighten our footprint on the Earth by choosing vegetarian dishes.

As the author mentions, a

groundbreaking 2006 report by the United Nations concluded that raising animals for food generates more greenhouse gases than all the cars, trucks, SUVs, Hummers, planes and ships in the world combined. Raising animals for food, the report said, is one of the top contributors to environmental problems and thus should be a major policy focus.

Of course, it's not just the United Nations that is sounding the alarm about the environmental benefits of going vegetarian. A recent University of Chicago study determined that going vegan is 50 percent more effective at reducing your carbon footprint than switching from a regular car to a hybrid.

The official handbook for Live Earth, the anti-global warming

concerts that Al Gore helped organize, says that not eating meat is the "single most effective thing you can do" to reduce your climate change impact.

Thankfully, there's never been a better time to shop for healthier, eco-friendly and humane dining options. With dishes such as vegan BBQ "riblets" and vegetarian "chicken" sandwiches widely available, it's easier than ever to pick up environmentally-conscious fare on the go. For more information on the connection between what we eat and our impact on the planet, visit peta2.com to request free stickers and a DVD.

Ryan Huling/Campaign Coordinator, peta2.com

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The Johns Hopkins News-Letter welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should not exceed 250 words. Letters must be delivered to the Gatehouse by Tuesday at 7 p.m. or e-mailed to News.Letter@jhu.edu for inclusion in that Thursday's issue. All letters received become property of the *News-Letter* and cannot be returned. The *News-Letter* reserves the right to edit for space, grammar and clarity. Letters must include the name, address and telephone number of the author. Only one author's name may be included. Groups, teams and other organizations may not submit letters, only individuals. The *News-Letter* reserves the right to limit the number of letters printed.

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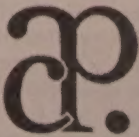
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OPINIONS

Musical activism adds to political dialogue

By DAVE SNYDER

On Monday, Nov. 12, I had the opportunity and pleasure of attending the Bruce Springsteen and the E-Street Band concert at the Verizon Center in Washington, D.C. As it was Veteran's Day, The Boss obviously had to be sure to dedicate at least one song to the war veterans, which he did. But, after performing "Livin' in the Future," The Boss went on to decry the "illegal wire-tapping, lack of habeas corpus, civil liberties eroding, attacks on the Constitution" which we, as Americans, are suffering under the current administration.

I know that will get some of you riled up, which is why I'm not here to discuss those facts (yes, they're facts, which means they're not debatable). What I want to examine this week is the idea of musicians using their fame as a forum for the discussion of, or activism on the part of, political or international issues.

Certainly I expected some type of political sentiment out of Springsteen, as one of his biggest hits, "Born in the U.S.A.," was written as a criticism of the Vietnam War, and he was also one of the headliners at the highly political Vote for Change concert in 2004. However, this brings forth a question: Is this political activism and commentary by members of the music community a good thing or a bad thing?

In my opinion, one of the great things (as well as one of the major drawbacks) about being famous is that you have tons of people who follow everything you say. Thus, you're already provided with an accessible forum for saying what



LAUREN SCHWARTZMAN/GRAPHICS STAFF

you want. Granted, we can see this being done in the wrong way with certain celebrities (I'm looking at you, Michael Richards and Mel Gibson), but others choose to use this forum to address public concerns.

We saw this done in 1985, with Bob Geldof's Live Aid concert, which was held to raise funds for famine relief in Africa. The same thing occurred in 2005 with Geldof's Live 8 series of concerts which were held to coincide with the G8 Conference in order to raise poverty awareness around the world. This past summer, Al Gore sponsored the Live Earth concert series in order to draw attention to the problem of global warming.

In all of these cases, concert festivals were held on a large scale to draw public attention to pertinent global issues. Famous musicians and celebrities came from (and came to) all sectors of the globe in order to express their support for the aspirations of these concerts, and to offer their own views, as well as advice, for what average citizens can do to help.

Certainly there is nothing wrong with this, and, in fact, the presence of celebrities and musicians presumably helped to draw more public attention to these issues. Seen in this light, one cannot really argue against the use of fame as a forum for political discourse.

So let's take a look at the other side of the coin. What about when musicians

speak (or sing) out against the current political situation? Well people, this is America, and the First Amendment certainly protects them in doing so. Is it the right thing to do however? Personally, I don't really see a problem with it. Just as the people who attended the concerts which were previously discussed were able to formulate their own opinions and views on the matters at hand (albeit, the musicians and celebrities certainly attempted to sway them in one way or the other), so too can people choose to agree or disagree with musicians on more contentious political issues.

While many Americans may not have agreed with the sentiment expressed by the Dixie Chicks when they expressed their displeasure with President George W. Bush, we cannot say that they were in the wrong for expressing their opinion. Indeed, many bands throughout the 20th century have come into existence simply to spread a political message.

The prime example is Rage Against the Machine — those rap-metal pioneers who also happened to be left-wing activists. Also, one of my personal favorite bands, Bad Religion, rose out of the SoCal punk scene in the early 1980s, and have been expressing their political sentiments to the masses ever since.

We cannot discourage musicians from expressing their political sentiments either through their words, their actions or their music, because they have the right to say whatever they wish (unless they yell "fire!" at one of these concerts and cause mass panic). And while some may say that they should not abuse the privileges of being famous to try to sway people's political views, just think of what they could be doing with their time instead (cough, cough: Britney).

Belgium politics are reduced to a language divide

By Fabian Bauwens

After about 150 days of endless negotiations Belgium is still plagued by the lack of a new government. Even Russian state television has shown interest in the matter. Inhabitants of Russia, a country suffering for more than a decade of secessionist violence in its Caucasian soft underbelly, now seem to show equal interest in the possible split of a small country far to their west.

I borrow the above title from our friend Donatien's horrid tale of *Les 120 journées de Sodome ou l'école du libertinage*. Certainly, circumstances for Belgian citizens are far from being as terrible as for the victims in the tale. Nevertheless certain parallels became gradually apparent to me. Just like the four wealthy men that gathered for 120 days abusing 24 young people, Belgian party élites seem to have taken the entire country and its 10 million inhabitants hostage. Just like the tale, each new month seems to introduce a more aggressive form of abuse.

Radicals and moderates from both the majority Dutch-speaking and minority French-speaking sides produce new intolerable acts and insults vis-à-vis each other. Meanwhile, the population awaits its new government while becoming the laughing stock of the Western world.

The Belgian governmental crisis also provides a handy example for authoritarian leaders to criticize the ability of democracy to work. Putin did not compare Kosovo to the Moldovan region of Transdnjestria — which would have been more logic — but rather aimed literally at Europe's (and more importantly, the European Union's) heart by comparing Kosovo to the Belgian situation.

So what is the problem? Why can't Belgians get along with each other anymore? The truth is that we have grown apart over a long time and that we literally don't understand each other. French-speaking Belgians often choose not to learn the Dutch language of the majority. For good reason it seems, since English or Spanish might indeed be more useful in a world that has become a global village. Dutch-speaking Belgians increasingly refuse to speak French out of frustration with the others' inability to speak Dutch, and younger generations don't see the point in learning the language of Dumas and Duras anymore.

As a Dutch-speaking Belgian I can't really say that I fear Belgium's splitting up. Yet the incompetence of our leaders not getting anything decided does worry me. The reality is that my family and friends in southern Belgium are utterly incapable of speaking Dutch and that my friends to the north become more and more radical towards their French-speaking compatriots. And somewhat ashamed, even I must admit that the level of my knowledge of French has seen better days.

And this is where politics come in. Francophile extremists — and increasingly those perceived as moderates — categorize Dutch as a peasant language not as important as a world language like French. They are ignoring, of course, that those with whom they share bed and table might feel hurt by such comments. Flemish radicals call for an end of Francophone linguistic imperialism and could not come up with a more original solution than to replace it with Dutch linguistic imperialism.

And so, both languages are hijacked by people who have no respect for the intrinsic value and beauty of each people's native tongue. French has become an ugly language to many Dutch speakers as it is increasingly identified with arrogance and haughty attitudes. Meanwhile French speakers increasingly perceive Dutch as an ugly output of a semi-fascist Flemish population.

Budget, the economy and the environment all seem to be important matters worthy of being negotiated in government talks. The absurdity is that talks on these issues for the most part were concluded a long time ago. These so-called symbolic issues that revolve around language are all that remain in the public sphere.

As a result, our politicians now do not discuss our future employment or retirement but excel in their growing incompetence by adhering to narrow-minded linguistic fetishes. Just like Albee's Martha and George, we seem deadlocked in an ongoing fight leading us nowhere. Government negotiations in Belgium have indeed become a school of political incompetence and a mockery for what a modern democracy should entail. As my faculty advisor, Richard Katz, probably would say: "It is silly!"

Fabian Bauwens is a graduate student in political science from Hasselt, Belgium.

Colin Ray

Writers strike out

As you may know, the Writers Guild of America, the screenwriters union, went on strike last week. They currently have representatives picketing in some sort of Carnegie Steel imitation, except they are in LA and New York instead of Pittsburgh. The major studios have vowed to send in Pinkerton Detectives to break the strike, but so far that has only been a bluff. A brief attempt to use illegal alien labor to fill in for the Writers until the strike ends, also met total failure. As it is, it looks like the strike is here to stay.

The strike has left millions of Americans with nothing better to do with their lives than to watch reruns of shows that weren't funny or good the first time they aired. Others are stockpiling the remaining new shows that will be aired until the studios run out of material. When they run out, it will be time for game shows, sports and news (things that don't require creativity to make). Fox is actually considering bringing back the XFL — that might give you an indication of the seriousness of the situation.

At the heart of the strike is the issue of how much money studios will pay writers for use of their work. Writers feel, perhaps unreasonably, that they should be

compensated for their work like normal people. Studios have taken the stance that full episodes aired online or downloaded to your iPhone, which will probably end up in a toilet at a frat party, are not in fact "full episodes" but "promotions."

This curious way to describe what is clearly a full episode has thus far allowed the studios not to pay writers one dime for the millions of promotions Americans have consumed, forgotten or sent for a swim. As the writers feel that they should be compensated (at the exorbitantly high rate of four cents per promotion) for these full-length episode promotions, the two sides appear to be at an impasse that could last for some months; Tommy Maddox, He Hate Me and Michael Vick are already in the weight room in preparation.

Strikes give both sides a chance to take stock, look at where they were, see where they are going, determine how much it has cost them in dignity to get there, etc. And let's be honest: TV is at its lowest point since radio was invented. Studio executives would gladly write their own shows: The problem is that at this point, there is officially no more material for hospital shows (a recent episode of *Grey's Anatomy* had a two-year-old admitted

to the hospital after he swallowed a Toyota Camry), family sitcoms, shows about supernatural individuals that save normal people or legal system shows.

Late night shows have also suffered, but perhaps not as badly. The only people who watch TV late-night are people with insomnia or people who just got home from working second-shift; they can't think clearly. At least, that is my only possible explanation for the success of shows that run the same thing 284 nights a year or so. It's a formula, that has been working for decades. Conan taking three minutes to appear. He then jumps in the air. Four minutes of applause follow. Commercial break. Unfunny monologue, perhaps with witty banter with drummer. Commercial break. Unfunny interview with actor/actress. Commercial break. Terrible musical performance. Repeat in 23 hours. And it's not just one show — there are late night shows on several different channels with a number of different hosts. In any event, they've essentially been running reruns for ... ever.

There is, however, a solution to the writer's strike: Buy a Playstation. Game makers rarely go on strike, and nothing is more satisfying than spending hours

parked in front of a glowing screen giving one's self carpal tunnel syndrome. At this point it's actually absurd to recommend something as revolutionary as occasionally reading a boring, pretentious book or perhaps even throwing a football or other projectile outside the boundaries of one's domicile. Developing social skills or spending time with nature are all options also strictly out of the question.

TV, like anything else, is harmless in moderation. The only thing anybody can do at this point is wait until the strike runs out, and until then, illegally download every season of *The Wire* and *Two and a Half Men*. If you don't have the Internet, you are probably idealistic enough to want to make a difference. Consider this: TV exists to sell advertising. If you're reading this newspaper, you have enough stuff already. If you quit watching TV and quit buying more stuff that you don't need, advertisers will pay less, the studios will give in and stop running stupid programming, and I'll get *The Office* back so I have something to watch on Thursdays.

Colin Ray is a junior English major from Chardon, Ohio.

Lessons from the CIA

By MICHAEL TANENBAUM

Two questions occur to a suspicious mind when someone like James Woolsey, the former director of an American clandestine service (the CIA) speaks at Mudd Hall before a small gathering of eager Hopkins students. The first: Should there be an expectation that information will be withheld? Conclusion: forgone. Second: What does a man who was formerly a member of the notorious Project for a New American Century have to say? Conclusion: quite a bit about the challenges facing the United States, namely energy security.

Since the turn of the century, climate change, terrorism and energy security have become crucial issues in global as well as national politics. Often these have been taken for isolated matters that are espoused, championed and defended by legions of interest groups and international organizations. Woolsey used his experience in the American bureaucratic structure to suggest that there are ways to reconcile the differences that bar a coherent vision for feasible national policy.

Appropriately, Woolsey started with climate change. Admittedly it is difficult to predict the future, and empirical methodology, largely reliant upon linear models, cannot anticipate with any certainty the trajectory of a natural world

that tends to surprise us and function in exponential, non-linear patterns. Still, climate change, Woolsey said, should be framed in terms of "what's more likely than not."

So what are the options? According to Woolsey, the consensus for a status quo approach is losing ground. While investors remain lukewarm on stimulating clean energy technology, venture capital and the American auto industry are moving toward alternatives: oil sands, shale, coal-to-diesel, coal-to-methanol and biomasses that can be broken down into ethanol. Transportation in the United States operates on approximately 96 percent oil, while electricity is produced at a level of 51 percent.

If the auto industry continues to move toward plug-in hybrids, which combine battery power with liquid fuels, then mileage will increase and greenhouse gas emissions will decline. Flexible fuel cars, which run on a variety of fuels, can be encouraged or simply regulated as a standard. In the field of electricity, an effective policy might be to encourage and invest in technologies for solar and wind, as well as to promote the use of "friendlier" light-bulbs and more efficient architectural design.

Domestic and international politics, however, are likely to cause problems. While the American public is becoming more attuned to the potential danger

of climate change and the advantage of energy-independence, politicians remain reluctant to espouse anything that could be subject to the routine collection of partisan criticisms. Response to these issues is going to come at a cost to the American public, but so will a decision to do nothing at all. Some have proposed incentives for Americans who shift to hybrid cars, while others have called for a scheme of public investment over the next 10 years in alternative technologies and adjustments to the power grid, some of which may come from the proceeds of a carbon regulation regime.

Terrorism is an issue tied to energy security and it must be addressed. The really troubling fact of the matter is that two-thirds of the world's oil reserves are in the Middle East, and the United States drops \$1 billion every day in treasury bills for the importation of oil — a figure that dwarfs America's trade imbalance with China and the cost of the Iraq War. It is up to the reader to qualify the threat of terrorism, as well as to prudently consider who might pose it and what diplomatic options exist as a means of deterrence, but there always exists the possibility of attack.

The decision to do nothing at all will result in a continued advantage for the Middle East and oil-producing nations in general. Woolsey suggested that we should strive for energy security and climate stabilization.

These, among others, are the conditions with which we are confronted. The last six years have witnessed an aggressive approach in the Middle East, one that has backfired in so many ways that its wisdom, at this point, seems now to be inarguably absent. This has led to a significant global realignment.

America will need bold political, private and constituent leadership to recoup its losses in standing, financial health and prestige over the last six years. America truly *does* have adversaries and challengers, some of them extreme and others merely playing by the very rules that American-led international leadership has stipulated for the loose government of global affairs.

When Woolsey finished speaking, I decided to approach the stage and perhaps shake his hand. I mean, who passes up a handshake with the CIA? (Its targets, I guess). But alas, Woolsey gave me a stare down from head to toe. He seemed to be saying that I looked like a boy who maybe ought not to be hearing all of these troubling things. Nevertheless, our generation will inherit and steer the implementation of the policies he has proposed. Let's just be wary of war-hawks, softies, lazies and spooks.

Michael Tanenbaum is a junior International Studies major from Pennsylvania.

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NOVEMBER 15, 2007

Present mirth hath present laughter

CultureSCAPE diversifies and conquers

By SARAH SABSHON
Arts & Entertainment Editor

Kicking off the newly designed CultureSCAPE, the Office of Multicultural Student affairs hosted the annual CultureShow this past Saturday evening. In an effort to promote diversity, CultureSCAPE, previously known as CultureFest, will now cover the entire year instead of limiting ethnic awareness to 11 days. These changes have been made in honor of the event's 20th anniversary.

Hopefully this CultureShow will be indicative of the reinvigorated collaboration between student groups and the administration intended to create a nurturing and understanding environment on campus.

With a short introduction from this year's hosts, Michelle Gutierrez and Gabrielle Morris, the show started in a relatively timely manner.

Although they were definitely enthusiastic, their bad humor would eventually put a damper on the evening. Such lines as, "Good news, we have air conditioning. Bad news, the second half is really hot, so stick around," elicited awkward chuckles from the crowd.

The evening began with an exhibition of Capoeira, Brazilian dance-fighting. Although the format has differed little from year to year (the members stand in a semi-circle, playing drums and singing while two members fight in the middle), it seemed as though the crowd was more involved this year. The enthusiasm certainly set the tone for the rest of the evening.

Next was a solo performance by Claire Kenney, an international Irish Dance competitor. Doing two "hard shoe" routines, titled "Kilkenney Races" and a traditional trump jig, Kenney gave the audience a taste of real Irish heritage.

Ketzev, the Jewish a capella group on campus, sang two songs. First, they did "Ahava K'Tana" (Small Love), an original song by Shiri Maimon, the winner of *Kochav HaNolad* (The Born Star), an Israeli version of *American Idol*.

Second, they translated Boyz II Men's hit "So Hard to Say Goodbye" into Hebrew. The better of the two pieces was definitely the former song. For some reason, English songs never translate well into Hebrew, although, their rendition of "Ahava K'tana" was more sweet and melodic than the power-poppy original.

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'Twelfth
Night'
on page
B3



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CALENDAR NOVEMBER 15-NOVEMBER 21

NOV
15

Rooney, Polyphonic Spree Take Sonar Stage

On Saturday, Nov. 17, a trio of bands — Rooney, the Polyphonic Spree and the Redwalls — will come together in Baltimore to play at Rams Head Live for what is sure to be a jam-packed night of great music.

Opening the show will be the Redwalls, a six-year old band from the suburbs of Chicago that is no stranger to opening for high-profile bands (the alt-rock band toured with Oasis in 2005 and 2006). The band has released three LPs; their most recent and self-titled album was released in October 2007 by MAD Dragon UNLTD. They have also played music festivals such as Lollapalooza and have released two major singles, "Thank You" and "Build a Bridge," which was recently featured in an AT&T commercial.

Also playing will be Dallas-born band the Polyphonic Spree, an unconventional symphonic rock group. The group, whose roster is always changing, usually consists of 10 to 20 members: a large choir, several keyboardists and players of every instrument from the drums to the harp to the theremin.

The Polyphonic Spree first started in the year 2000 when Tim DeLaughter (former member of the alternative group Tripping Daisies) was itching to create a modern rock band with a symphonic (as well as choral) sound.

Inspired by such bands as Electric Light Orchestra, DeLaughter and his Tripping Daisies band mates began by writing music and acquiring musicians. Since then, the Poly-



COURTESY OF [HTTP://WWW.C.INVAIORES.ORG](http://www.c.invaiores.org)
Consisting of upwards of 15 members at any given show, The Polyphonic Spree brings a presence and power to the stage.

phonic Spree has released four albums and three EPs, and has also provided the score for the 2005 film *Thumbsucker*. Their latest album, *The Fragile Army*, was released in February 2007 on TVT Records and has inspired the band members to wear black army uniforms onstage at every show.

The band has had their music featured on television advertisements and the television shows *Scrubs* and *Las Vegas*, has been invited to open for David Bowie, and, in 2004, played the Nobel Peace Prize Concert.

Rooney, the second of the dual-headlining-tour of a curious pairing, will then take the stage in an interesting turn of taste to a more stripped down

tone of retro-rock. The Los Angeles-based band consisting of Robert Schwartzman, Louie Stephens, Taylor Locke, Ned Brower and Matthew Winter will bring a lively performance all their own.

Formed in 2000, Rooney has seen its share of band mate replacements, slow record sales and difficult management; the band, however, experienced its first major success in 2004 when its music was featured on the popular teen television show and powerful launching pad for musical unknowns, *The OC*.

Ever since then, Rooney, whose members have said they are "very inspired by vocals" and attempt to create their music based on their message, has

toured with acts such as the Strokes, Weezer and OK Go. They have also been invited to add tracks to albums like the *Chumscrubber* soundtrack and *Killer Queen: A Tribute to Queen*. The band has released two studio albums, seven EPs and one DVD, and has contributed to various other albums and soundtracks. Their most recent album, *Calling the World*, was released in July 2007 by Geffen Records.

For ticket information about this show, whose doors at Rams Head Live are set to open at 7 p.m., visit <http://ramsheadlive.com> or call (410) 244-1131.

— Lauren Carney

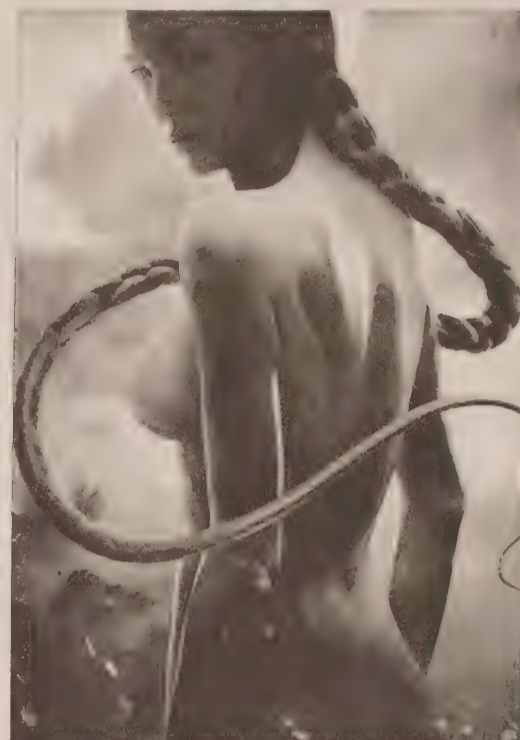
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1:15 p.m. | 4:15 p.m. | 7:15 p.m. | 10:15 p.m.



COURTESY OF [HTTP://WWW.ENTERTAINMENTWALLPAPER.COM](http://www.ENTERTAINMENTWALLPAPER.COM)
The adaptation of a Medieval classic follows Beowulf in his epic fights against Grendel and Grendel's mother (Angelina Jolie), in this realistic animation.

Mr. Magorium's Wonder Emporium

Movie debuting at the AMC Theatres Towson Commons 8

Friday, Nov. 16

2:00 p.m. | 4:30 p.m. | 6:50 p.m. | 9:10 p.m.



COURTESY OF [HTTP://WWW.MAGORIUM.COM](http://www.MAGORIUM.COM)
Natalie Portman plays Molly Mahoney, the newly bequeathed owner of the Emporium, who discovers her toy store is magical.

Campus events

Thursday, Nov. 15

7 p.m. The Medical Marijuana Controversy

Come listen to the history, science and legislation of the marijuana controversy and learn your rights. The speaker is Allan St. Pierre, Executive Director of NORML (National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws). The seminar will be held in Mergenthaler room 111.

Friday, Nov. 16

3 p.m. – 5 p.m. Green Idea Generator

The Idea Generator's basic goal is to bring together students, staff and faculty who will undertake projects designed and run by students to make the campus more sustainable. The kickoff meeting (occurring in the Great Hall at Levering) will be an opportunity to bring any and all ideas for projects to the table.

8 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 16 and Saturday, Nov. 17; 2 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 18. *Twelfth Night or What You Will*

The joys and absurdities of young love abound in James Glossman's delightful production of Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night* at the historic Merrick Barn. Ticket prices are: \$5 for students; \$13 for seniors, Hopkins alumni, faculty and staff and general admission is \$15. Performances will be at 8 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, and at 2 p.m. on Sunday.

Saturday, Nov. 17

6 p.m. – 8 p.m. Date a Future Doctor Auction

Part of the proceeds will go to the Ronald McDonald House Charities. For more info about the Ronald McDonald House Charities, go to <http://www.rmhbaltimore.com>. This event is sponsored by the Hopkins Organization for Pre-Health Education and will be occurring at the Great Hall.

Sunday, Nov. 18

4 p.m.; also 8 p.m. Friday, Nov. 16 and Saturday, Nov. 17. *Witness Theater Fall Showcase II*. Witness Theater presents its sec-

ond fall showcase which will feature several short performances at the Arellano Theater (next to Levering Hall, underneath the Glass Pavilion). Tickets will be \$3 with a JCard, and \$5 general admission.

Local events

Friday, Nov. 16

8 p.m. Broken Social Scene.

Broken Social Scene comes to Sonar (407 E. Saratoga St.) on Friday to perform Kevin Drew's *Spirit If...* in its entirety. Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased online at <http://www.sonarbalmore.com>.

Saturday, Nov. 17

11 a.m. Matisse Biographer Hilary Spurling on Henri Matisse: A Secret History

Join Hilary Spurling, internationally celebrated biographer, as she talks about the trials and triumphs Matisse encountered as one of the world's most creative minds and the key role sculpture played in his art and his life. Spurling published *The Unknown Matisse* in 1998 and *Matisse the Master* in 2005. A book signing with the author immediately follows the lecture. This event will be free for BMA members and \$20 for nonmembers.

7 p.m. – midnight. Silent Art Auction

Admission is free to this silent art auction hosted by local artists Jennifer Becker and Laura Parkhurst. All proceeds will benefit the Santi School Project, a non-profit organization dedicated to building a school in Nepal. The artwork involved is donated by 30 local and out-of-state artists. For more information on the Santi School Project, visit <http://www.santischool.org>. The event itself will take place in the Load of Fun Art Gallery on the first floor at 120 West North Ave.

7 p.m. The Big Music Event

Hosted by the City Paper and Record & Tape Traders, and in celebration of 30 years of business, this event features some of Baltimore's favorite bands, including All Mighty Senators, Jah Works and the Kelly Bell Band. The concerts will take place at the Recher Theater in Towson

(512 York Road) and tickets are \$10. Call (410) 337-7178 for more information.

9 p.m. – 2 a.m. Tortured Soul with Adam Lovegrove and Adam Auburn

Think Prince with more of a beat. Or Jamiroquai, even. The party is on at the Mosaic Lounge (4 Market Place in the Inner Harbor) for free, as long as you get there before 10 p.m. (Tickets are \$10 after that). Advance tickets are available at <http://www.missiontix.com>.

Sunday, Nov. 18

3 p.m. – 5 p.m. Sneak Preview of the new Better Waverly Community Arts Building

The Better Waverly Community Arts Building is a multipurpose community arts center dedicated to neighborhood youth. There will be art for sale, including framed photographs by Joe Stewart, pottery by Pat Halle, embroidery by Angela Sriram, handmade jewelry by Christy

Zuccarini, crafts and more! All proceeds from sales will go directly to support youth art. The event will be located at 901 Montpelier St. (at the corner of Montpelier Street and Ellerslie Avenue).

7 p.m. Electric Six

Not only does this six-piece Detroit band produce great videos ("Danger! High Voltage" is one of our faves), but they're known for their entertaining live shows as well. Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$12 at the door. Sonar is located at 407 E. Saratoga St.

Wednesday, Nov. 21

8 p.m. The Bridge

A unique rock band that combines various elements of blues, folk, funk and bluegrass throughout their entire repertoire, The Bridge is coming to Rams Head Live (20 Market Place). Tickets are \$12 in advance and \$15 the day of the show. Visit <http://ramsheadlive.com> for more information.

Exposure By Angeli Bueno



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

CultureShow kicks off year-long CultureSCAPE

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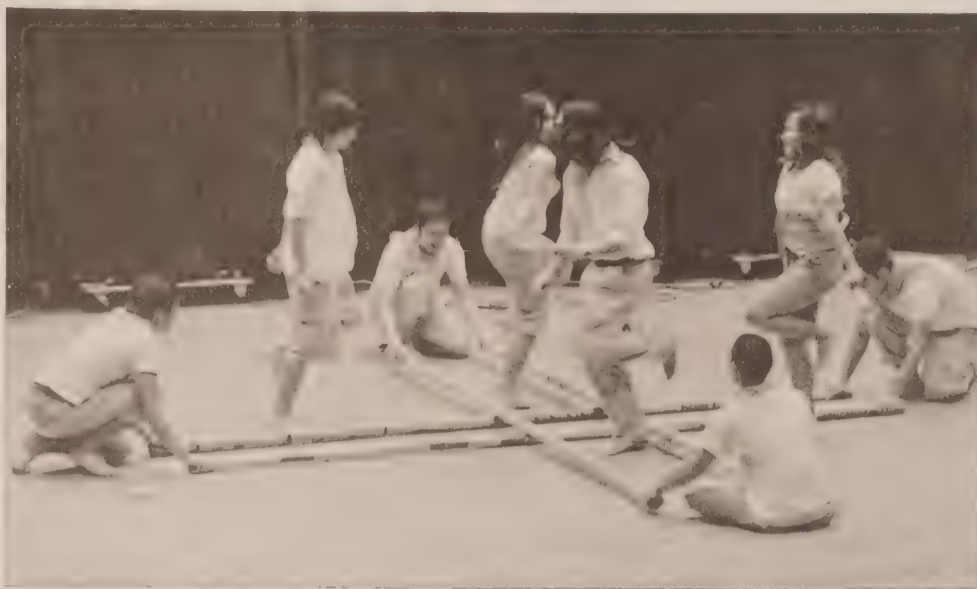
Ketzev, however, has improved immensely over the past few years, and this act certainly reflected that.

Modern Dance, a typically overlooked student group, performed an original piece by artistic director Marilyn Byers, titled "Oh Mary." Styled in the vein of Alvin Ailey, known for his incorporation of blues and gospel into dance, this was incredibly well-done, professional and visually exciting.

Taekwondo followed. Although the exhibition of talent was interesting, it was poor placement in the program to have a music-less showing of martial arts after such a lively dance number. Many attendees, however, thoroughly enjoyed the wood-breaking, which elicited hoots from the crowd.

Shakti, the classical Indian dance group, as always, donned gorgeously intricate costumes. The well-rehearsed choreography and the beautiful Eastern music transported the audience to India. This performance, purely through dance, passed along the messages of the Indian culture, fulfilling the goal of CultureSCAPE.

Some of the most famous singers in American culture come from the Caribbean. Vivaz, a small group of women, explore their Caribbean heritage through performing arts, most notably singing. Ella Fitzgerald's "Summertime" was the first song choice and Lauryn Hill's "Killing Me Softly" was the second. Although the former was indeed captivating, one could hear the entire audience murmuring the lyrics to the latter. Not only were their musical choices on target, but these women have some of the best voices Hopkins has ever



LAURA BITNER/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

This traditional Filipino stick dance as performed by Filipino Students Association is said to represent birds on rice paddy.

heard.

The surprise star of the evening was The SuburbaKnights, the Hopkins break dance group. Interacting with the crowd and putting on a high-energy performance, the members genuinely impressed the entire audience, spurring a standing ovation. Their headstands, spins and jumps seemed unfathomably difficult — and yet they managed to do it all with almost no noticeable mistakes. And of course, who doesn't love a good "sprinkler," as one member admirably attempted.

Another highly entertaining performance was from the Filipino Dance group, a division of the Filipino Students Association. Every year, they perform a dance with long wooden poles that bang the ground and clap together, as dancers move in and out of their paths. And al-

though interesting, the audience has little to identify with. This year, however, they decided to add a more modern aspect to the dance, showing the move from a traditional Filipino couple to a more modern day, Filipino-American couple. In this manner, the dancing between the poles was much more enjoyable for everyone.

There were a few acts that were less than satisfactory. Egyptian Sun Belly Dancing put on an uninspiring stunt with the balancing of knives and the twirling of scarves. The unflattering costumes also hurt the performance. The official dance team of the University, the Ladybirds, certainly put the crowd to sleep with two "fusion" dance pieces, one Latin Jazz and the other American Disco. The highlight of the performance was the can-can line, à la Rockettes.

Although they have done well to choose tops that cover their midsections, one would imagine that with all that talent, they could come up with more exciting choreography.

However, overall, the performances in this year's CultureShow were the best seen at Hopkins. The addition of individual performers such as Kenney and Diedre Lee, who played "Fighting the Typhoon" on an ancient Chinese instrument called the Guzheng, proved to be worthwhile, entertaining, and, most importantly, educational. Sometimes this message is lost on the audience; as they cheer for their friends, they forget what the purpose of the CultureShow is — to educate the student body on different cultures and ethnicities.

This year, the planning committee was smart to make sure that each performance was prefaced by a short introduction by a performer, explaining the history and meaning behind each group and its performance piece. This provided a historical reference point for each act, allowing the audience not only to appreciate the music and dancing but also the cultural background.

This year's CultureShow was generally a success and certainly an improvement over past years. Hopefully awareness and understanding of cultures will now no longer just be a once-a-year event. If this is any indication of what CultureSCAPE has to offer, this year's diversity education should be a profound achievement.

Documentary on Darfur educates, urges activism

By LAUREN LINKS
News-Letter Staff Writer

For those of us sitting on the sidelines, the upcoming film *Darfur Now* rouses awareness and urges activism. For those frustrated with the lack of Darfur genocide education, the film may come as something of a relief — it is a film that can educate conveniently, as it meets the people in theaters, where they can comfortably snack on Jujubes and soda. The documentary, produced by Warner Independent Pictures, written and directed by Ted Braun, illustrates the lives of six people, moved by hope or desperation, to end the genocide in Darfur.

Portraying individuals in the United States who are involved in the plight of Darfur's citizens, the film introduces us to Adam Sterling and reacquaints us with the already-familiar actors Don Cheadle, of *Hotel Rwanda*, and George Clooney. The film walks us through the activism of Sterling, a student in Los Angeles, who uses his own funds and dedicates immense time to doing what he can — creating flyers, passing them out and lobbying for the divestment of California from the genocide. He claims that

Darfur is like the Holocaust all over again and accuses humanity of "falling flat on our faces," in our failure to prevent or help end an atrocity.

What Sterling shares with the American celebrities is hopefulness, though the scale and publicity of their activism is quite different. The documentary introduces Cheadle after his own trip to Darfur, in the process of writing the book *Not in Our Time* about how his experience moved him, and how we can help. When joined by George Clooney, the two take a trip to China and Egypt where they meet with delegates to discuss the problem in Darfur and to express their hope that the respective countries will help.

Some of the most informative segments of the film follow the organization of evidence, assembled to indict individuals of Sudan who are responsible for war crimes and atrocities. The documentary presents Louis Moreno-Ocampo, the chief prosecutor of the Hague's International Criminal Court, and his discussions with investigators about the evidence of said atrocities. His commitment to law provides the hope he has in bringing the

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COURTESY OF [HTTP://ALLMOVIEPHOTO.COM](http://allmoviephoto.com)
Darfur Now focuses on the strife, struggle and genocide of the Sudanese people.

JHUT Shakespeare pleases audience

By PATRICK KENNEDY
News-Letter Staff Writer

Subtlety is seldom one of the driving principles of the Johns Hopkins University Theater's recent production of Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*, or *What You Will*. This is not an objection — in fact, it's quite the opposite. In spite of the verbal jousting that constitutes much of its script, the play remains one of the more accessible and least ambiguous of Shakespeare's major comedies. Overwrought period scenery and understated acting — both of which this rendition wisely avoids — would have done poor service to the work's agile combination of caricature, celebration and near-implausibility.

In other words, director and theater instructor James Glossman and his student actors have approached their material with the appreciation of the Bard's purposes that is the foremost re-

quirement of any good take on Shakespeare. Though already well-supplied with moments of outsized emotion, not to mention the occasional beating or personal humiliation, the cast of this *Twelfth Night* also endeavors — admirably but somewhat distractingly — to unearth the satiric or dramatic wealth of minor roles and minor moments. Yet even the production's full-throttle scenes are nicely coordinated, and even the most emotional lines are delivered with unimpeachable precision. Time and time again, the latest show to hit the Merrick Barn verges on becoming too much of a good thing. And time and time again, the dedication and discipline of its cast pulls it back from the brink.

Twelfth Night runs along several unruly storylines that eventually and deftly converge. The first scenes present the Duke of Illyria, Orsino (junior Scott Morse), pining over the countess Olivia (senior Justine Wiesinger), who

has refused his courtship. As he mopes to violin music (here provided by senior Anu Seshadri in a small role), a young lady named Viola (senior Julie Sihilling) finds herself shipwrecked on the Illyrian coast. She enters Orsino's household disguised as a boy and becomes the count's ambassador to Olivia — who, in turn, falls for Viola in her male guise. Later on, the sea captain Antonio (senior Joseph Micali) rescues Viola's twin, Sebastian (sophomore Eric Levitz in a really bad wig), from the seas. They too come to Illyria, setting off an explosion of ruses and revelations that would require a review twice this size to fully describe.

While this may be complicated enough in its own right, it is Shakespeare's gallery of more grotesque characters that lends the dialogue its humorous wealth. Olivia's besotted uncle, Sir Toby Belch (senior Rob Kasten) spends much of the play thinking of ways to dupe and torment the countess's uptight steward, Malvolio (senior Tim Wang). The dimwitted Sir Andrew (senior Kyle Dugan), the cunning gentlewoman Maria (junior Christen Cromwell), and the wise clown Feste (senior Elizabeth Eldridge) all give Toby a hand. They are not wholly responsible for the plentiful sprinting, exclamation and slapstick in this production. Still, Glossman's show doesn't reveal its comic capabilities until the whole gang gets on stage and starts running amok.

According to the production notes, Hopkins's *Twelfth Night* takes place in a fictional version of Greece. The costuming — which include jeans and sneakers, shiny cloaks,

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PAGE B5



LAURA BITNER/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

Senior Justine Wiesinger as Olivia swoons for Viola who is disguised as her twin brother, Sebastian.

Double reading impresses writing students

By JOHN KERNAN
Arts & Entertainment Editor

Last Thursday, the Writing Seminars department hosted novelist Porochista Khakpour and poet Steve Scafdi to read their respective works. The crowd was a mix of professors, enthusiastic grad students and underenthusiastic IFP students.

First up was Porochista Khakpour, an Iranian novelist who graduated from the Hopkins Writing Seminars program, where she was awarded the Elliot Coleman Fellowship. Her first novel, *Sons and Other Flammable Objects*, was an "Editor's Choice" of the *New York Times*. Or, as a fellow audience member put it, "She's a pretty big deal."

Khakpour exchanged hugs with a few faculty members and took the stage, as it were, speaking briefly about her experience and garnering laughs from some Writing Seminars inside jokes that left the poor undergraduates baffled.

She read a few passages from her novel, the stories of an Iranian-American family dealing with the paranoia of America immediately after 9/11. Khakpour explained how she had never been a "write what you know" author but was prodded by the department to do so.

Khakpour's writing was intelligent, clever and entertaining — just as all those big-time reviewers said. It was obvious that her style would make for an excellent novel. There were plenty of laugh-out-loud moments for the crowd, all of which seemed

to appreciate Khakpour's style.

However, Khakpour is, after all, a novelist, and not a spoken-word poet. It felt as if there was more waiting in the words that what Khakpour gave — emotion that was there, in both the book and inside her — but she did not verbally express it. Nor did she look up once during either excerpt that she read — an easy way to bring the audience in.

That is not to say we blame her. A novelist need not be a slam poet on the side, and Khakpour's writing is more than capable of justifying itself.

Next up was poet Steve Scafdi. His book of poems, *Sparks from a Nine-Pound Hammer*, was

nominated for a Pulitzer Prize, which contrasts nicely with his "day job." He works in West Virginia as a cabinet maker.

Scafdi jaunted up to the stage, clearly comfortable in this environment. His grey tweed blazer's collar was a bit untucked, which was fitting for his general demeanor, which was one of familiarity and relaxed confidence.

Scafdi gave some general background about himself, saying that he was glad to be somewhere where they "take [him] seriously."

He presented his poems with an enthusiasm that really made them seem personal, not only as

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COURTESY OF SARAH HUNTINGTON

Poet Steve Scafdi was a featured speaker at last week's Writing Seminars reading.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

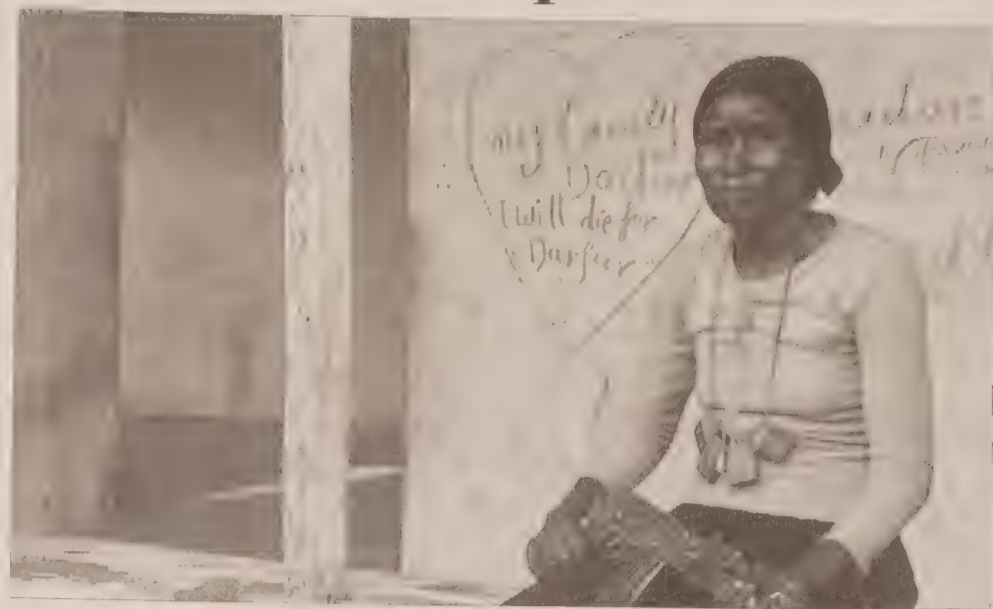
Darfur film attempts to spur activism

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criminals of Sudan to justice. We see his work not as a slow bureaucratic process, but as a hard-won case driven by the best intentions of humanism. The portrayal does not touch upon the politics of the process except for encounters with the Sudanese ambassador. And its strength lies in illuminating the personal aspect of the struggle, first in presenting criminally responsible individuals who are not monsters, but power hungry leaders, and secondly as displaying how one individual, though powerful and influential, brings justice to the cause. We are, however, left with the fact that while warrants were issued for Sudanese war criminals Ali Kushayb and Ahmed Haroun, it does not mean that justice is speedy or that international communities are cooperative.

There are three featured individuals who live in Darfur and are living to aid Darfur. One is Ahmed Mohammed Akbar, the lead sheik at the Hamadea Displaced Persons Camp, who spends his time organizing, running and protecting a camp of 47 thousand people. Another is Pablo Recalde, who is a leader of the World Food Program and organizes convoys of food to raided areas of Darfur. Finally is the life of Hejewa Adam formerly a member of the Shatia village, but now, after it had been invaded and destroyed by the violent Janjaweed, survives as a soldier for the Darfur Rebels. Hearing her recount the loss of her infant, her friends, all of her possessions and most of all her sense of safety touches the viewer.

The strength of the documentary lies in its presentation of the suffering contrasted with the hope of those struggling in Darfur. Given access by the government to film, the documentary provides unique and rare views into the lives of the people. The dusty convoys delivering food, the tents filled with refugees, the colors of women's head coverings and the eyes of the laughing children remind us of their humanity, evoking sympathy and awe for their strength. It makes Darfur something more



Darfur Now, written and directed by Ted Braun, exposes the true Sudanese situation through emotional images and celebrities.

than a name in the news; it portrays its people, its beautiful land and crisis as a way of living.

Unlike other documentaries that bring war home — *Fahrenheit 9/11* comes to mind — *Darfur Now* presents itself as well-assembled, lacking the kitschy, authentic camera shaking that marks the schem-

ence, making it feel the audience feel like spectators, rather than participants — directly engaged — in the documentary.

The documentary's motive is clearly to incite emotional responses to the cause, rather than to provide deep intellectual brainstorming about ways to solve the conflict or contribute. In this respect, it provides an elementary layout of the history of the conflict and its nature. It is not investigating ways that relief organizations contribute and comparing their effectiveness, nor is it

interested in exploring the conflict as other Sudanese see it, all interesting perspectives. It wants to make you sympathetic. It wants you to see the tears of Darfur orphans. While this is one way for America to connect to the conflict, it seems over the top, particularly when the exaggerated music steps in to evoke tension or pity.

The film's sensationalist char-

acter is an example of effective advertising. Stick a celebrity in, and a good looking one at that, and people will follow. It strikes me as something reminiscent of Jonathan Edwards's "Sinners in the Hand of An Angry God" where we are meant to shudder at atrocity rather than be provided practical knowledge that can help us change the situation. Maybe, though, awareness is all we need?

The movie continually emphasizes that something must be done now to help the citizens of Darfur, and we are told that we can do at least something "more than nothing." But in terms of providing realistic options, the film falls short. The truth is that we are not wealthy celebrities who have the privilege of meeting leaders of China or Egypt; nor can we afford to visit Darfur and write a book about it. Sure, we can aspire to the lobby activist of Adam Sterling, but many Americans are jaded with the bureaucratic process, and frankly, may think that is too much work.

It is clear that *Darfur Now* is not about linking the cause to the practice of our lives. Its weakness as being an effective activist recruiter is that it does not highlight actions that directly or indirectly indict us as contributing to the problem. Furthermore, its credits roll with an uplifting song about peace, which seems, after being informed that there are 160 other displaced persons camps, inappropriate. It's as though they want to leave us not to dwell on the sad and tragic situation, which might provide better motivation than cheesy hopeful music.

For those of us who are embarrassingly uninformed or misinformed about Darfur, the documentary provides a straightforward introduction to the issues. If you can get past the sensationalist tones of *Darfur Now*, you will be moved by the people, and a picture of a place we know only from the news.

Novelist and poet impress eager crowd

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his own works, but easy for the listener to relate to as well. He prefaced one poem by assuring the audience that it was all true, this poem called "To whoever set my truck on fire," then launching seamlessly and hilariously into the opening line.

Later, Scafi presented a series of poems about Abraham Lincoln with a certain "poetic license." Lincoln, for example, was portrayed as a member of the circus, among other things. Scafi explained that his intent was to show Lincoln as a man who suffered many losses throughout his lifetime, not a mythical figure.

The crowd ate up Scafi's casual style, loving his rhythm and jokes, but also appreciating his subtle or more serious poems. After his final poem, the crowd barely waited for Scafi to finish his final word before applauding enthusiastically.

The writers, while vastly different in their style, both brought interesting and moving pieces to the stage. The reading of writers sponsored by the Writing Seminars department remain one of the most under-appreciated gems available to Hopkins students.

New Vibrations

Ire Works The Dillinger Escape Plan Relapse Records Nov. 12, 2007

Dillinger songs won't leave you contemplative, nor should they try to. Dillinger wants to take your ears on a trip. Their selling point has always been their mind-boggling time-signature calculus, their ability to handle the most complex poly-rhythms and tempo shifts, which is awe-inspiring to listen to.

So it's strange that Dillinger would title their latest album *Ire Works*. If Dillinger played faster or louder, they still would never be as "irate" as John Lennon was when he sang "Working Class Hero" with just his guitar. *Calculating Infinity*, the band's debut, shows what happens when musical mathematics threatens to swallow the musician. There's no room for emotion on that record, and that's what makes it frighteningly intriguing. *Ire Works*, like *Miss Machine* before it, finds the band trying, and failing, to inject something human into their detached, inorganic sound.

After one listen, it's apparent how much this record mirrors the last. "Fix Your Face" and "Lurch" run into each other to make for one insanely syncopated, vocally incoherent opening suite that seems to say, "We're back to rocking your face off!" Sure, "Fix Your Face" suffers from a hokey chorus ("You're like a deer in the headlights, baby!"), but it's promising nonetheless.

Promises were meant to be broken, though, and, like *Miss Machine*, *Ire Works* quickly hoodwinks you with a slew of forced horizon-broadeners. Take "Black Bubblegum," for instance. Maybe the band intends to be jarring by sticking this right after "Lurch" without some intermittent palate-cleanser. This pop-friendly, industrial new-metal track (complete with sleazy-uncle vocals that were already annoying with *Faith No More*) is supposed to prove that Dillinger are open-minded or something. Same goes



for "Dead as History," a Nine Inch Nails-meets-generic alt rock number that fades into an a cappella ("I'll hold on to this forever / That is never long enough"), a chorus more annoying than haunting.

But nothing's quite as egregious as the laughably titled "Milk Lizard," which finds the band macho-ing out à la Motley Crue. With an inexplicable horn-section and lyrics about women with "sweat coming off their heels," this track stinks of throw-back and hairspray.

The closer, "Mouth of Ghosts," is commendable for its vision. A total change of pace for the band, the song is an epic build-up of jazzy percussion and pianos playing Eastern melodies. But it feels a bit long by the six-minute mark.

There are some highlights: "Nong Eye Gong" and its book-ending instrumentals come together as a pretty successful centerpiece. And "Party Smasher," with its rapid, snaking riffs, showcases the band's incredible musicianship as well as anything they've done before. But the best moments are all rehash. Hell, "Nong Eye Gong" even shamelessly plunders the jazz-break from "43% Burnt," arguably their best song.

In the end, it's really tough to fault Dillinger. Their album *Calculating Infinity* took metal to the furthest reaches of sensory intensity, and the band knows that. It's normal for them to want to branch out and stake out new ground.

But they're forgetting what they're good at. They're inclined aesthetically. They make fascinating, ornate sound-sculptures to be admired, not empathized with.

— Max McKenna

Game Review

Tony Hawk's Proving Ground Activision XBox 360, PS2, PS3, Wii, DS

By MARK MEHLINGER
For The News-Letter

Despite the famed success of the *Tony Hawk Pro Skater* video game series, the latest edition, *Tony Hawk's Proving Ground*, fails to impress. The *Tony Hawk Pro Skater* video game series was launched in 1999 for PlayStation. Quickly becoming the most popular game in the genre, *Tony Hawk Pro Skater* dominated the series and earned millions of dollars for Tony Hawk. Because of the success, Activision, the game's developer, has since released 10 follow-up games for numerous game systems, including PCs and Macs.

Tony Hawk Pro Skater's gameplay includes arcade-like challenges where the player can skate around a realistic environment collecting hidden items and earn a high score in an effort to unlock more levels and challenges. The series' latest edition, *Proving Ground*, doesn't fall far from the original game structure. In this newest edition, the skater can cruise the streets of Philadelphia, Washington D.C. and even Baltimore, including downtown and the Inner Harbor (sorry, no Charles Village). The levels show great resemblance to their respective cities and use the processing power of the Xbox 360 to create extremely realistic environments. The game is also available for PlayStation 3, PlayStation 2, Nintendo Wii and Nintendo DS.

Besides the new levels that bring the gameplay close to home, new updated features of the game are split up into three categories: Career, Rigger and Hardcore. Each of these three categories of gameplay has its own highlights. In the Career category, you can

learn the "Nail It" moves that enable the player to maneuver their skater's feet in order to create their own tricks. Playing the Rigger trail allows the player to unlock the abilities to add new objects in the environment to skate on with the "Rig-A-Kit." For example, say you want to jump over a car to obtain a certain item hovering above it. You can enter the "Rig-A-Kit," place a ramp in front of the car and obtain the item with ease. The "Rig-A-Kit" also enables the player to break into locked environments. Lastly, playing the Hardcore trail allows the skater to learn new moves to make him go faster and literally "skate-check" pedestrians in order to get them out of your way. For example, once learning the "Aggro Kick," the player can push much harder and obtain fast speeds in order to clear immense gaps and objects.

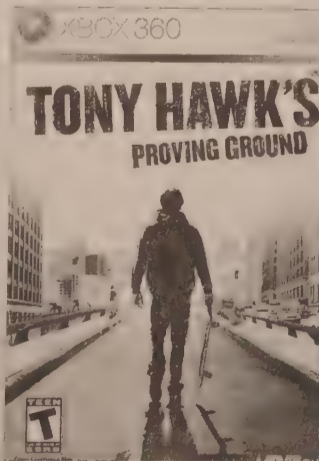
Besides its levels and gameplay, *Tony Hawk's Proving Ground* features a large soundtrack with a wide variety of artists including Blackalicious, !!!, Foo Fighters, Slick Rick, The Clash and the Rolling Stones, just to name a few. The game also features a number of unlockable items, just as its predecessors, such as skaters and environments. The player is also able to film or photograph their own moves and edit them with an in-game video editor.

Although *Tony Hawk's Proving Ground* offers a wide array of features, it still does not fall far from its predecessors except for its enhanced graphics and enlarged skating environment. For the past eight years, no game was comparable to the *Tony Hawk Pro Skater* series. But with the release of game developer Electronic Arts's fall 2007 release, *Skate*, the *Tony Hawk Pro Skater* series seems to be

losing the competition. EA's *Skate* could undoubtedly be called a simulator because of its unbelievably realistic gameplay. Whereas in *Proving Ground*, the player can simply hold down a button to accelerate and eventually move as fast as cars, the player in *Skate* must push to obtain speed and only can reach a realistic level unless using a ramp or going downhill. Although *Proving Ground* features the "Nail-It" mode, which enables the user to control the skater's feet, EA *Skate's* entire gameplay is based on a similar idea. Using the analog stick controls to pop the board and move the skater's feet on it, making every trick attempt different in some way. In Tony Hawk's series, each trick will always look exactly the same unless entering "Nail-It" mode. In EA's *Skate*, the player basically has the ability to style each individual trick that he wishes to perform. One persistent issue with the Tony Hawk's game series is the unrealistic abilities of the skater. In *Proving Ground* and its predecessors, we see the skater flying over buildings and grinding objects for miles, enabling the player to cover an entire city in

one combination move, without ever touching all four wheels on the ground. Each game character becomes Superman on his board. While this can be fun and entertaining, the concept gets old and makes the game less challenging.

EA's *Skate* stands out as a more sophisticated game than *Proving Ground*, with features and gameplay that make the enjoyment of the game lasting. While *Tony Hawk's Proving Ground* is not a poorly developed game, but its overbearing similarity to its predecessors makes the game lack originality.



American Gangster Jay-Z Roc-A-Fella Nov. 6, 2007

American Gangster is a concept album not merely "inspired" by Ridley Scott's heroin flick, but a musical reconstruction of Jay-Z's past life as a dope slinger, mirroring and resonating with the iconic Frank Lucas. Moral ambiguity, champagne, rises, falls — it could all make for a swell artistic mélange, and Jay-Z sure is certain it does. But at this point all we really want is the old Jay-Z who had more interesting things to talk about than good credit scores and picking out dinnerware sets with Beyoncé or whatever it was he was rapping about on last year's *Kingdom Come*.

Nobody is particularly excited about whether Jay's concept succeeds, and fortunately so, because the album has only the most tenuous of parallels to the film. Rather, this should be considered Jay-Z's comeback album; gone is his geriatric flow and yawn-inducing lyrics from last year, replaced by a snarling, sophisticated rhyming that doesn't approach the young hustler of his '96 debut *Reasonable Doubt* but remains captivating and relevant. At the start of the album's first single, "Blue Magic," Jay-Z presents a menacing dealer's manifesto laid over a steely Neptunes beat. In four minutes and 12 seconds, Jay-Z easily bests every word he's rapped in the past year at least, sounding eager to play the anti-hero instead of the executive: "Blame Reagan for making me to into a monster, blame Oliver North and Iran-Contra, I ran contraband that they sponsored, before this rhyming stuff we was in concert."

He proves equally brassy and dexterous on the jubilant "Roc



Boys" (meant to represent the fleeting moments of fame and pleasure in the drug game, if we're still keeping track of this concept album stuff): "Let your hair down baby, I just hit a score, pick any place on the planet, pick a shore, take what the Forbes figured then figure more, 'cause they forgot to account what I did with the raw, pick a time, let's pick apart some stores, pick a weekend for freakin' for figure fours..."

Even if such lines are only highlights from an otherwise lyrically decent album, it's hard to recall instances of such nimbleness even during Jay-Z's best years. Though while Jay-Z has regained his mouth, it sounds like he left something of his ear behind. Normally a man with a canny appreciation for phenomenal beats, Jay-Z let Diddy's production squad produce most of the album, and they served him a chintzy sampler pack of '70s soul sounds that often fail to complement his lyrical vigor. It is perhaps a conceptually appropriate decision, evoking the faded-glory-fallen-dealer mythos and letting Jay-Z's storytelling take the forefront, but it still smacks of dullness from a man whose words are usually backed by the musical bravado of Just Blaze and Kanye. And yet, a pretty-good Jay-Z album in 2007 is more than enough. Fans, take solace; the king of rap is not yet deposed. Concerned mothers, start fretting; music about dealing drugs is interesting again.

— Sam Biddle

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

My Fair Lady puts on a “loverly” show

By NATALIE BERKMAN
News-Letter Staff Writer

A delightful, energetic, and entertaining production has arrived at the Hippodrome Theatre, bringing a little bit of London to Baltimore. Until Nov. 18, an incredibly talented cast of Broadway and London stars will be performing Lerner and Loewe's classic *My Fair Lady* with energy and vigor.

The legendary Broadway musical, *My Fair Lady*, is based on George Bernard Shaw's *Pygmalion* and tells the story of a speech professor, Henry Higgins, who bets that, by teaching a lowly flower girl to speak proper English, he can pass her off as a princess.

The young flower girl, Eliza Doolittle, initially hates the professor, who is constantly belittling her, but as her English improves, Henry Higgins begins to realize that he is essentially creating his idea of the perfect woman. Understandably enough, he falls in love with his creation. Lerner and Loewe wrote a rapturous score and clever lyrics for this adaptation.

Appealing to avid fans, who are familiar with the play can be difficult, but the director and cast do a superb job in replicating the lovable play.

This production is incredible. The sets and scenery will leave you dumbfounded, and everything is constantly in motion. Every song and transition went seamlessly, and no one in the audience was bored even for a moment. The actors were wonderful. Lisa O'Hare (Eliza Doolittle) was a wonderful flower girl who never forgot which accent she was supposed to be using, which can sometimes be tricky even for the most seasoned actresses. She had a beautiful voice and really played up her relationship with

Christopher Cazenove (Henry Higgins), who struck the perfect balance between obnoxious and witty. While the original Henry



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Cameron Mackintosh's bright and busy production of *My Fair Lady* wows audiences at the Hippodrome Theatre in Baltimore.

Higgins, Rex Harrison, spoke almost all his lines, it's nice to know that Cazenove doesn't try to conform to this style. He sang much more than Harrison did, and it's nice change of pace to actually hear the melodies.

The rest of the cast was equally superb. Tim Jerome played an adorable Alfred P. Doolittle, Justin Bohon was a likeable and energetic Freddy, and every other smaller character was just that — a character! Most of the cast members have experience on Broadway or in London; O'Hare recently played Mary Poppins in London, and Cazenove is also no stranger to the West End along with many of the other cast members.

The incredible acting only adds to Shaw's clever plot, Loewe's beautiful music, and Lerner's witty lyrics. The pit orchestra got off to a rough start, but they improved throughout the production. By Act Two, everyone was entranced by the show.

Ultimately, this enchantment led to an incredibly enthusiastic standing ovation.

My Fair Lady is one of Broadway's most well-known musicals. It was even made into a movie starring Rex Harrison and Audrey Hepburn. And now, it's possible to see this legendary show at the Hippodrome. From the booming opening chords of the overture, the entire audience knew that they were about to have an enjoyable night. A lively and energetic cast ran around the stage with a million different things were happening all at once. However, it wasn't at all chaotic. In fact, the entire story was easy to follow and well told. The constant action and motion merely reflected the lively city of London, in which “My Fair Lady” takes place.

In the show, urban poor run around whistling “Wouldn't It Be Lovely,” snobby upper-class people watch the horse races at Ascot, a flower girl dances at a

ball fit for a queen, and a speech professor runs around an office wondering “Why can't a woman be more like a man?”

There is no end to the action and entertainment in this production. It is the kind of show in which one might expect to notice something new every night.

After the hustle and bustle subsides, and the audience hears about Eliza's dreams and Henry Higgins's bet, the plot really starts moving.

The humor intensifies as Higgins continues his lessons and Eliza hates him more and more. When he tests her at the horse races at Ascot and Freddie falls in love with her, it only gets funnier.

Overall, “My Fair Lady” is always a good time, but this production makes it even better. With a stellar cast, a ton of wonderful scenery, and energetic choreography, “My Fair Lady” takes on new meaning.

Twelfth Night delights with kookiness and solid acting

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B3

shiny cloaks, and a nightshirt and puffy pink slippers for Malvolio — doesn't do much to emphasize this. Nor does Margaret Foltusky's spare set, with its lattice screens and yellow walls. It is a spacious arena for Shakespeare's mayhem, although richer decoration would have clashed far less with the Hopkins troupe's exuberant performances.

Not all are particularly outlandish. Levitz's Sebastian and Sihilling's Viola are undoubtedly the least obtrusive characters onstage, providing well-considered contrasts to the unashamed heights of desire and self-importance that Wiesinger and Morse bring to their roles. For this *Twelfth Night*, every character counts. Micali offers Antonio as a portrait of full-volume indignation and bravery, not a throw-away sidekick to Sebastian, while Cromwell's witty Maria can hold her own against confederate schemers who, simply put, are more interesting on paper.

Although Viola's travails prop up the storyline, the misadventures of Shakespeare's schemers, jesters and hypocrites are its true lifeblood. Toby and Andrew are already among the best touches in the show. In the hands of Kasten and Dugan — who play their parts with apparent relish — their scenes feel like something out of *Animal House*, just with wittier language. Elizabeth Eldridge, whose accessories include an acoustic

guitar and a full monk costume, channels a brand of unstoppable kookiness. Wang's work is much more volatile. Yet his urgently-delivered repertoire of annoyance, delusion and anguish nearly lets Malvolio steal the show from his jolly antagonists.

The reprimand that this “overweening rogue” eventually meets is the meanest gesture in Shakespeare's plot. Without deep tragic or political ambitions (both of which inform, say, *The Merchant of Venice*), the play presents an actorly challenge that is mainly technical — necessitating exact delivery, though seldom encouraging deep reinterpretation. Well, so what if *Twelfth Night* is one of the most evident and easy crowd-pleasers in the canon? In Glossman's Hopkins Theatre rendition, the show is clearly a delight to act and for the most part a delight to watch.

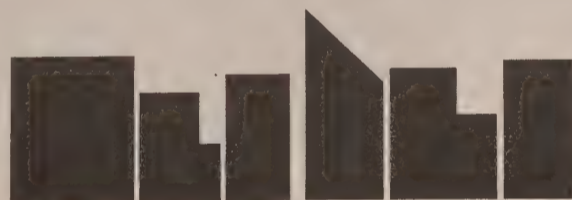
Twelfth Night, or What You Will, will be playing at the Merrick Barn on Nov. 16 and 17 at 8:00 p.m., and Nov. 18 at 2:00 p.m.



LAURA BITNER/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

Seniors Michelle Brown, Julie Sihilling and Rob Kasten star in JHUT's production of Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*.

WHO SAYS WINTER IS THE TIME TO CHILL?!



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SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Study links phobias to genetic personality traits

By **TIFFANY NG**
News-Letter Staff Writer

Franklin Roosevelt once said, "The only thing we have to fear is fear itself," but unfortunately phobias are a real and persistent part of millions of Americans' lives. These can range from the common, such as acrophobia (fear of heights), arachnophobia (fear of spiders) and claustrophobia (fear of enclosed spaces), to the truly bizarre, including arachibutyrophobia (fear of peanut butter sticking to the roof of the mouth), Bolshephobia (fear of Bolsheviks) and vestiphobia (fear of clothing).

But unlike fears, which are normal responses to danger, phobias are irrational or excessive responses to a danger that is often exaggerated or imagined. According to the American Psychiatric Institute for Research and Education, 7.8 percent of all American adults have phobias. Phobias are the most common psychiatric illness among women and the second most common among men over 25.

Often these phobias become a debilitating part of a person's life. Some of the most common fears, such as social phobia, animal phobias and agoraphobia (fear of unfamiliar settings), force those afflicted to make significant lifestyle changes in order to function normally.

This has led researchers to search for the cause of such fears. Though it has been well-established that phobias are largely hereditary, it was previously unclear which particular factors are inherited. Researchers at the Hopkins School of Medicine, led by O. Joseph Bienvenu, tested whether basic personality traits, such as extraversion and neuroticism, played roles in the development of phobias.

Extraversion refers to a per-



MATT HANSEN/GRAPHICS EDITOR

son's tendency to be venturesome, energetic, assertive, sociable and to experience positive emotions. Neuroticism, on the other hand, deals with the propensity to experience negative emotions, such as nervousness, sadness and anger. Earlier studies have suggested that introversion and neuroticism are linked within families to social phobia and agoraphobia, but they do not address whether this link is actually due to common genetics or a shared environment, since children of phobics could easily "learn" the behaviors of their parents.

In order to test this question,

the researchers interviewed thousands of sets of twins to determine the causes of social phobia, agoraphobia and animal phobias. Twin studies effectively allow the study of genetic versus environmental factors, as identical twins share both genes and childhood experiences, while fraternal twins share only experiences.

During such interviews, interviewers determined whether the participants possessed fears that included meeting new people, public speaking, going out of the house alone, being in crowds or open spaces, and animal-related

fears. These fears were diagnosed as phobias if the fear and related avoidance of the situation interfered significantly with the participant's life.

Not only did the study confirm that low extraversion and high neuroticism were highly correlated with social phobia and agoraphobia in a single person, but the correlation was much higher in identical twins than in non-identical twins, demonstrating that the genetic factors that affect extraversion and neuroticism account in large part for genetic susceptibility to those phobias.

Animal phobias, on the other hand, did not appear to be correlated with extraversion and were only weakly associated with neuroticism. This suggests that such fears are due mainly to environmental factors and may be learned over time.

The ramifications of these results are profound. If scientists can determine the genes that influence neuroticism or introversion, one could also potentially determine the causes of social phobias and agoraphobia. More effective diagnoses of phobias and, potentially, genetic therapy treatments could be developed in order to help those with debilitating fears.

MRI used to track migration of cells in the bloodstream

By **BARBARA HA**
News-Letter Staff Writer

Magnetic resonance imaging, more commonly referred to as MRI, allows physicians to glimpse inside the human body to observe the structure and function of large organs. But MRI might also be useful to track smaller populations of cells, such as those that migrate in response to injury.

Bone marrow cells are rapidly dividing progenitors of many of the cell types found in the blood stream and blood vessels. One of the many functions of bone marrow cells is to congregate at the site of vascular injury to help repair blood vessel walls.

Scientists at the Hopkins medical school's Department of Radiology as well as collaborators at the University of Washington used MRI to track the movement of bone marrow cells to the site of neointimal hyperplasia, a condition involving a thickening of arterial walls. This restricts the flow of blood through the damaged vessel.

Neointimal hyperplasia can occur spontaneously but is frequently the result of local injury to an artery. It is often seen after surgical procedures such as angioplasty or the placement of a stent, two procedures that are themselves intended to treat narrowed arteries.

Recent studies have shown that bone marrow cells are able to develop into the endothelial cells that line blood vessel walls. Growth of endothelial cells can help alleviate or prevent neointimal hyperplasia, so migration of

bone marrow cells to the site of vascular injury could be part of the body's defense against the condition.

Researchers induced vascular damage in mice in the femoral artery, a large blood vessel in the leg. They injected bone marrow cells labelled with Feridex, an iron-containing chemical marker that allows the MRI to visualize the cells.

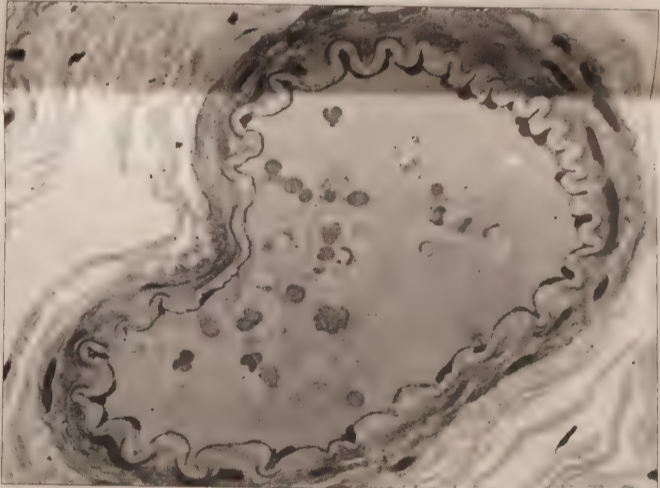
MRI tracking allowed the researchers to follow the location of the cells as they moved through the bloodstream to the site of vascular injury. To make sure they were looking at the correct cells, the bone marrow cells were also labelled with a genetic marker that was visible after staining.

The bone marrow cells were successfully visualized using MRI in all experimental animals as they moved to the area of neointimal hyperplasia. Further analysis showed that bone marrow cell migration caused an increased growth of epithelial cells at the site of vascular injury.

Decreased thickness of the blood vessel wall was also observed, demonstrating that bone marrow migration can help relieve neointimal hyperplasia.

This study is one of the first to attempt to track cells with a noninvasive radiologic method as they respond to changes in the human body in real time.

If proven successful in other contexts, this method could help researchers study the way cells migrate and grow in a variety of diseases and might one day be useful for practicing doctors to diagnose and treat these conditions.



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Epithelial cells (black) are visible lining the walls of this artery under magnification.

Mutant Parkinson's protein damages cells

By **BEN KALLMAN**
News-Letter Staff Writer

Mutation in a single gene contributes to the abnormal build-up of protein present in the neurons of people with Parkinson's disease (PD), according to a new study by Hopkins researchers.

Alterations in the gene's protein product, alpha-synuclein, appear to render neurons more susceptible to the damaging effects of age-related stress and, ultimately, may lead to their premature death.

PD is a degenerative disease of the nervous system, usually characterized by tremors, muscle rigidity and a general slowing of movement. While the exact cause of PD remains unclear, most scientists agree that both genes and environment play a role.

Evidence in support of the genetic hypothesis is not hard to find. A study in 1997, for example, showed an unusually high prevalence of PD in the small Italian village of Contursi Terme; one family had 60 cases spread over only six generations.

By studying DNA samples from the affected villagers, researchers pinpointed a mutation

of the alpha-synuclein gene as a factor causing the higher-than-expected number of PD cases. Since then, two more kinds of mutations to the gene have been discovered in other families.

Further research found that mutant alpha-synuclein is a major component of Lewy bodies, accumulations of protein in neurons that have classically been associated with PD.

Moreover, mutated copies of the alpha-synuclein gene were shown to be passed down in an autosomal dominant fashion, meaning that one copy of the gene is sufficient to induce the formation of Lewy bodies and increase an individual's risk of acquiring PD.

There's also some evidence to suggest that normal variation in levels of alpha-synuclein between individuals contributes to this risk — even in people lacking the rare genetic mutations that cause heritable forms of PD, as in Contursi.

Nonetheless, the molecular pathways by which alpha-synuclein operates on the molecular level to produce the startling physical impairments seen in PD has been uncertain.

The Hopkins group, led by Wanli Smith and colleagues at the School of Medicine's Department of Psychiatry, sought to settle the case about alpha-synuclein's role in the diseased cells of PD.

Specifically, the group wanted to see how turning on genes that produce alpha-synuclein would affect a cell's development. To this end, they chose a special line of easily modifiable cells into which they inserted either the mutated or normal copy of the alpha-synuclein gene.

The gene was then, by means of a specialized genetic tool, "turned on." After a week of growing in a medium that mimicked the environmental conditions present in the brain, the team collected the cells and evaluated them.

Contrary to the researchers' expectations, cells with the mutated gene did not die at a higher rate than those with a normal copy.

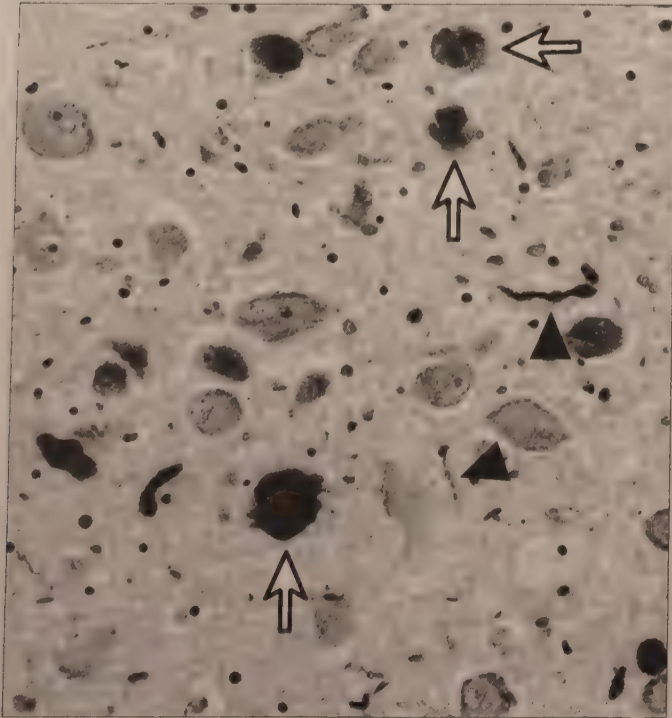
Nonetheless, the team observed marked biochemical changes in the mutated group, with noticeable decreases in the activity of the proteasome, the cell's garbage disposal.

As in your kitchen sink, build-up of waste isn't a good thing in cells. Inside a brain cell, banana peels and chicken fat are replaced by various proteins, such as alpha-synuclein, which a malfunctioning proteasome is unable to degrade. Accumulating proteins usually lead to cell death.

Within the mutant group, the team also observed increases in reactive oxygen species (ROS). While normally critical to proper intercellular signaling, abnormally high ROS levels have been linked to many age-related neurological diseases. When in abundance, ROS wreaks general havoc on the cell, damaging DNA and degrading amino acids.

Because ROS levels tend to increase as an individual gets older, many scientists theorize that ROS activity is the basis for aging and age-related diseases, including Parkinson's.

Further research is required to determine exactly how mutated alpha-synuclein leads to proteasome malfunction and how that impairment converges with the harmful effects of ROS to give rise to Parkinson's.



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Lewy bodies (indicated by arrows) are a common pathological hallmark of Parkinson's.

New gadgets make it easy to transfer photos

By **DENNIS KO**
News-Letter Staff Writer

Isn't it frustrating when you take great pictures with your camera and then can't find a way to get them onto your computer? Sure, you can use your camera's USB cable or a card reader ... if you can find them. They're small enough that they are easily lost in the tons of cables and chargers piled in many of our drawers.

Then there's the added wrinkle that most cameras have proprietary USB jacks, meaning they don't use the same mini-USB jack that most other devices use. For each camera and other accessory, you need a different USB adapter cable just to upload files to your computer.

Today I'm going to introduce two new products that will help you overcome this problem. The first is SanDisk's new SD Plus USB cards, which are standard media cards with a super thin USB adapter built in to them. The SD cards, which stands for Secure Digital, fit just like any other flat memory card into your digital camera.

The difference is that there's a hinge in the middle of the SD card that allows you to bend part of it back. This reveals a thin USB adapter that allows you to plug the SD card directly into your computer for easy transfer of your photo files. No more cables: you can move photos directly from your camera to your computer.

Personally, I think this is such a handy card since I have lost since lost my camera's USB cable,

and I always seem to forget to bring my card reader when I want to show off my latest photos.

This device eliminates all that hassle without adding more bulk to the plethora of cables/chargers/other devices that we all have already. The one downside to this product is the price, with a 2 Gb card priced at \$40, compared to a normal 2 Gb card at around \$20.

SANDISK PLUS
Features: 2 Gb memory, universal adapter for cameras
Available: Electronics stores
Price: \$40
Rating: A-

The other product is the Eye-Fi Wireless Card, which is also a camera-ready SD card. Here's the hook: it also has built-in WiFi for Internet access. How does this work? The card looks and functions just like a normal SD card, so you can save pictures to it from your digital camera.

The difference is that the card's built-in WiFi capabilities allows you to hook into an wireless internet network available and immediately stream pictures from your camera. These can go directly to your favorite photosharing, blogging or social networking site. Supported sites

include Picasa, Flickr, Photobucket, Facebook, Webshots, Shutterfly, Kodak and more.

To allow your WiFi card to stream pictures from your camera, you need only to set up your SD card from your PC or Mac the first time you use it.

This tells the card which local wireless networks to look for as well as the login information for the sites mentioned above.

The downside to this product is that the WiFi card only connects to selected networks, which means you will not be able to just walk into any Starbucks and upload your photos to the Web.

Another issue is that the WiFi drains your battery and does not work when your camera is off, so you have to turn your camera on when you get home to put your pictures online.

The biggest hurdle is once again the price: a whopping \$99 for 2 Gb. But this product shows that the future of camera connectivity is very promising.

EYE-FI
Features: 2 Gb memory, easy uploads to web sites
Available: Electronics stores
Price: \$99
Rating: B

Tech News Briefs

APL helps flying cops prevent attacks

A new technology developed by the Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory will make it easier for police to perform routine surveillance of possible terrorism targets.

Maryland state police conduct routine inspections of high-profile locations, such as bridges and dams, by helicopter. However, there is no systematic way for officers to keep track of what they observe.

APL worked with police to design a portable computer with detailed information on each of the targets. The computer stores data and photographs collected over time to help officers spot un-

usual activity.

The device also features an interactive checklist intended to systematically guide the inspection of each site. State police officials hope that the routine recording of information with this system will allow for better detection of suspicious activities.

The Critical Infrastructure Inspection Management System was developed with funding from the federal Department of Homeland Security, and could eventually find widespread use across the United States.

— Stephen Berger

Planned space telescope gets cable

The James Webb Space Telescope, the planned successor to the Hubble Space Telescope, has just gotten broadband.

A proprietary technology called SpaceWire will allow the four major instruments on the telescope to communicate more efficiently by improving on standard broadband capabilities.

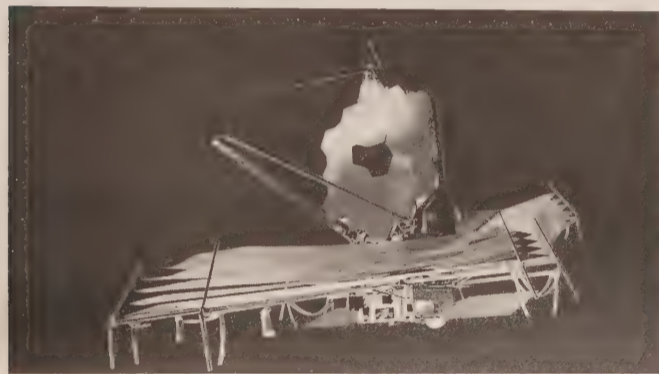
SpaceWire, developed by the European Space Agency, runs about 10 times faster than traditional Earth-bound cables. The enhanced speed will allow cameras on the telescope to take larger and more detailed photographs as they communicate

with each other in real time.

The technology was adapted for use on the James Webb Space Telescope by scientists at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Md. SpaceWire will soon be standard on a wide range of commercial, defense, and scientific satellites.

The James Webb Space Telescope is expected to launch in 2013. It will be operated by the Space Telescope Science Institute, located on the Hopkins Homewood campus, which also operates the Hubble telescope.

— Stephen Berger



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An artist's conception of the James Webb Space Telescope, to be launched in 2013.

Possible treatment found for eye degeneration

By SAM OHMER
News-Letter Staff Writer

It is expected that most people's eyesight worsens as they age, but there are some forms of age-related vision loss that are clearly not normal.

While typical age-related problems might be caused by slow changes in the lens, cornea and muscles around the eye, pathological visual disorders are often caused by deterioration of the retina itself.

The retina is a delicate sheet of specialized nerve cells at the back of the eye. Cells in the retina called rods and cones absorb white light and colored light, respectively, and process the light signals before sending them to the brain.

Two common types of age-related retina diseases are retinitis pigmentosa and macular degeneration. Retinitis pigmentosa, or RP, is caused by a death of rods in the retina.

This process leads eventually to blindness at night because rods are specialized to operate at low levels of light. Without rods it is almost impossible to see in the dark.

The other disease is age-related macular degeneration, or AMD, which is characterized by a slow loss of both rods and cones in the macula, which is the part of the retina with the highest density of photoreceptive cells.

Degeneration of the macula causes a severe decline in visual acuity. Macular degeneration can also occasionally be seen in younger individuals.

These two diseases are interesting to researchers because there are few effective treatments for either one. A team of researchers at the Hopkins medical school, led by Aling Dong, may have found a common mechanism for both disorders.

The group found that free radicals play a large role in the destructive stages of both RP and AMD. Free radicals are atoms or molecules with a highly reactive



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Macular degeneration causes profound damage to the retina. Dark regions indicate fluid damage, light spots are dead tissue.

unbound electron.

When released from chemical reactions, these particles can do immense damage to cells because they will immediately try to "steal" an electron from another atom or molecule, leaving in its wake another free radical.

This chain can continue and lead to damage in many of the body's most sensitive tissues, including the retina.

One common prescription for fighting the effects of free radicals is the intake of antioxidants, chemical compounds such as vitamins C and E that can donate an electron to a free radical without becoming free radicals themselves, thereby quenching the particles' reactivity.

The most exciting finding in this team's research is the proposal that antioxidants can actually slow the effects of diseases such as RP and AMD.

The researchers demonstrated their hypothesis by breeding rats engineered to overexpress a protein called glial cell line-derived neurotrophic factor, or GDNF, which has been shown to act against free radicals.

The scientists then introduced three chemical stresses to the rats' eyes: paraquat, iron and oxygen, all potential sources of free radical damage.

Paraquat is a common herbicide that is easily absorbed by the body. Iron damages photoreceptor cells, making them more susceptible to additional injury by free radicals.

Oxygen atoms can easily turn into a common type of free radical called reactive oxygen species.

The researchers exposed one group of mice to a high-oxygen concentration environment for three weeks, which led to a good

deal of retinal damage.

In all three models, the overexpression of GDNF was able to reduce retinal damage, including the injury induced by free radicals.

GDNF expression provided almost complete retinal protection in the oxygen model, with less cell death observed. The results were similar in the other two experimental models.

It will be a while before GDNF therapy is tested in humans for RP, AMP and other neurological disorders that may be associated with free radicals.

Even if GDNF can rescue cells from free radical-induced damage, there are technical difficulties to be overcome with the delivery of GDNF to vulnerable tissues. Nevertheless, this is a promising first step in the treatment of degenerative disorders of the retina.

Experts: new gun law a public health threat

By VRITIKA PRAKASH
News-Letter Staff Writer

Blanket immunity has been given to the makers of something that kills over 30,000 Americans each year and causes another 65,000 injuries: guns.

Legislation signed by President Bush in October 2005 enacted a powerful shield for gun manufacturers and dealers. A new analysis by experts at the Hopkins School of Public Health argues that this shield is a significant public health hazard.

The Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act (PLCAA) prohibits any lawsuits against manufacturers or dealers resulting from criminal activities involving the guns they sell.

"Under the PLCAA, the lack of both regulation and litigation as public health tools for firearm injury prevention is a potentially dangerous combination for the public's health," the experts wrote.

The exceptions to the law are narrow, applying only if dealers knowingly breach a sales contract or if guns are manufactured with a design defect. But the exceptions only apply if the firearm was used intentionally under

foreseeable circumstances.

The PLCAA also does not allow victims to receive any monetary compensation in court cases. With such broad immunity from lawsuits and judgments, real incentives to make guns safer and sell them appropriately are reduced.

Jon Vernick, Lainie Rutkow and Daniel Salmon, the three experts who published their analysis in the November issue of the *American Journal of Public Health*, question why the firearm industry warrants a broad shield from litigation while manufacturers of other products such as vaccines and automobiles do not.

The researchers point to the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program (VICP), which was established in 1986 to give legal recourse to victims of vaccine-related illnesses. People who believed they

were eligible for compensation would file a petition through VICP, which would then be formally reviewed and would possibly lead to compensation. The VICP and similar programs in other industries allow victims to have their day in court.

The lack of both regulation and litigation ... is a potentially dangerous combination for the public's health.

— JON VERNICK AND COLLEAGUES IN THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

They also cite the fact that lawsuits against motor vehicle manufacturers are governed by traditional rules of liability. Negligence must be proven to make a case, and over the last few years lawsuits have forced car companies to provide safety levels that exceed standard requirements. As a result death rates in automobile accidents decreased by 74 percent between 1966 and 2004.

Litigation is a way for the public to weigh the risk and benefits of a certain product, assess its safety and possibly alter the way it is produced or sold if it is found to be in the public interest. The PLCAA does not allow this possibility, so one of the main avenues to regulate gun manufacturers is blocked.

Due to the tremendous number of gun-related fatalities and injuries in the United States each year, Vernick and colleagues argue that the litigation shield created by the PLCAA represents a dire and immediate threat to American public health. Many thousands of lives could potentially be saved or improved if the shield were abolished.



COURTESY OF HTTP://WWW.WHITEHOUSE.GOV

President Bush signing the PLCAA into law, joined by members of Congress and gun industry lobbyists.

Capt. Anna Morgan, MD
Brooke Army Medical Center, Texas

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ARMY STRONG.

YOUR NEWS-LETTER

eBay will steal your life, sanity and money!

By PAUL BUONAGURO
For The News-Letter

Forty-four dollars and thirty-five cents ... \$53.81 ... I watch the numbers climb in their typically erratic fashion. My teeth are clenched and sweat drips from my brow. When it's all over, I am the winner at \$67.01, plus shipping and handling.

The prize this time is *Green Lama #6*, a rare issue of a comic featuring a 1940s superhero who, unlike Batman and Superman, never made it out of the decade. But he still lives on eBay, just like all the other superheroes, pop stars and cultural icons of our past.

eBay is a great place to buy things you need, especially when you know exactly how much they cost in a retail store and can bid accordingly.

But it is a terrible place to buy things that you don't need. There are so many interesting listings that it is easy to get caught up in the dreaded "auction fever." I know, since it has happened to me.

Pierre Omidyar, eBay's founder, once remarked that eBay would never have gotten off the ground if not for the hardcore collectors who popularized the site in its infancy.

Indeed, the various communities of collectors are still important to eBay, judging by the volume of listings. The things people buy and sell range from the well-known, like stamps, baseball cards and comic books, to the obscure, like Masonic badges and bus tokens.

I, for one, came to eBay in order to relive my childhood.

It started off simply enough, with the purchase of a *He-Man and the Masters of the Universe* metal lunchbox to add to my collection of lunchboxes, which had been dutifully assembled with frequent trips to garage sales and antiques stores.

After that, I was hooked — no more driving up and down the state of New Jersey, no more haggling, no more disappointments. Well, except for getting outbid, of course. But then you just have to raise your bid.

After lunchboxes, it was everything else great about the '80s: Gremlins trading cards, Thundercats action figures, promotional *Star Wars* drinking glasses. Then I moved on to NES carts and Powell Peralta skateboards.

After a while, sucked into the vortex that is eBay, I ventured into the '70s — and even further into the past, into a strange and mysterious world of tobacco cards and luridly illustrated paperbacks.

I was no longer reliving my own childhood, but that of my parents, and that of their parents. It was great.

Each day, my room looked less



DAVID MIELES/FOR THE NEWS-LETTER
An avid eBay user searches for collectibles and more on the Web site, looking to make a purchase.

like a room and more like a time warp, some sort of interstitial space between eras where all the detritus ended up.

But the good times could not last. The invoices, which had been pouring in steadily, suddenly turned into a grand deluge.

I had to step back and wonder whether each new box of G.I. Joe colorforms or Wuzzles trick-or-treat bags was really worth it. Sure, they were great, but what was I to do with all this stuff? I could barely walk through my room without discovering that I'd bent my Wookiee. So I gave it up.

However, I don't hold any grudges. It was great while it lasted. Despite the danger, I

would encourage other people to try eBay, as long as they don't get carried away. There are some things you just can't find anywhere else but eBay, which make it a difficult site to avoid once you start.

Writer Adam Cohen, in his superlative book about eBay titled *The Perfect Store*, says it best: "No one can truly experience eBay, of course, without acquiring at least one 'only on eBay' item. I now own a small Turkish carpet, handwoven in Iran in the 1960s, featuring a likeness of President John F. Kennedy with slightly Middle Eastern features."

Fortunately there is hope for the hopelessly addicted. Anyone who has browsed the listings for long enough inevitably notices items that have sold for record-high prices — the same kinds of items that have been sitting for years in their closets, attics or basements, or waiting to be found at yard sales and flea markets.

And so begins the transition from buyer to seller. While selling is still an addiction, it is decidedly easier on the wallet and helps keep the house clean, too.

I am a smoker: an insider's viewpoint

By JAMIE MACGILLIS
For The News-Letter

I smoke one pack of cigarettes a day — that's 20 cigarettes. I am going to describe what it is like to be a smoker on the Homewood Campus. I'm outside 100 minutes a day smoking (that's five minutes per cigarette, on average).

Since I'm always in and out of buildings, I know the personal histories of numerous security guards on campus, and they know mine. I feel more at home on campus than many of my non-smoking friends just because of the number of people I can chat with for a minute or two a day.

In the year and a half that I've spent at Hopkins, I have met more people outside my dorm while smoking than I have in the big lectures that everyone has to sit through at least once in their Hopkins careers.

The people that I've met and gotten to know aren't even nec-

essarily other smokers. I got to know some of my closest friends because I smoke. I am constantly outside smoking and people just walk by, see me and stop to chat.

On top of all that, the smoking community itself on campus is incredibly friendly. When it's 30 degrees outside, smokers are the only people willing to stand outside for an extra 20 minutes to freeze their butts off and talk.

It's acknowledged that some smokers on campus will quit while they're here, some won't quit until later on in life and some won't quit at all.

I know many smokers who plan on quitting once college is over, but right now they keep smoking because it's social and because they don't want to deal with the added stress of quitting.

It's a general consensus throughout the smoking community that hearing "you should quit" from someone you don't

know doesn't help at all. Only one friend of mine smokes. If you ask her, she'll tell you that every time she gets a non-smoking lecture she needs an extra cigarette.

I have many friends who are constantly trying to make me quit, but quitting is completely mental. If the smoker isn't ready, it's not going to happen. Nicotine is a vice — every smoker is aware of that. I'm not going to defend smoking and say that it is by far the best life choice I have ever made.

Quite frankly, I am not proud that I smoke, but I do and I'm fine with that. The most important thing to understand is that most smokers on this campus really are not affected by the "those cause cancer" lectures that every smoker gets. I get them about once a week, if not more often.

Every smoker has learned, at this point, to shrug off the smoking criticism. When someone says "that stuff will kill you" to me at 8:30 in the morning, all I want to do is rattle off the extensive list of everything in the environment that causes cancer besides cigarettes.

I'm not saying that there is animosity between myself and non-smokers. I have a few friends that hate when I smoke around them, so I just don't smoke around them.

At this point, we're all legal adults; the government does grant us the freedom of making our own decisions.

I cannot speak for every smoker with 100 percent confidence, but I can say that I'm pretty sure that if the smoker is a Hopkins student, he or she is well aware of the health hazards of smoking.

At home, my father smokes three packs of cigarettes a day; he smokes inside the house. I grew up with it. My grandfather died of lung cancer when I was eight years old; my grandmother and my best friend's grandmother both have emphysema.

My father hasn't been to a doctor in 25 years, and at this point he just doesn't want to hear the bad news that will come eventually.

The dangers of smoking have always been very real to me, but right now I fall into the category of smokers that are just not ready to deal with the stresses of quitting.

And I'm fine with that.

Have your show and watch it too

By SEAN MURPHY
For The News-Letter

For the last month, homework has taken away my 9 - 10 p.m. on Mondays. Of course the work has to be done, but *Heroes* is on at 9 p.m. on Mondays, and *Heroes* is the best show on TV. For those who don't know, the show involves genetically mutated people basically beating up the bad guys using their awesome powers and saving the world. It may sound lame, but believe me, for many people, it's worth tuning in once a week at exactly 9-10 p.m.

I could get my work done ahead of time, but who does that? *Heroes* may be only on TV on Mondays, but there better ways to watch that don't require me to do my work early. I didn't know this until a few weeks ago, but recent episodes of various shows are on DC++.

YOUR tracks

Compiled by Julie Dischell

It always amazes me which songs manage to get air time on the radio. There have been so many times when I think that I could write something much better. However, as my old roommate never ceases to remind me, people aren't paying millions of dollars to see me in concert. The following is a list of songs with lyrics I have found to be particularly horrible:

So many of Fergie's songs have terrible lyrics that I felt it was only fair to mention three of them:

"Big Girls Don't Cry"

"I'm gonna miss you like a child misses his blanket"

Excellent use of simile here, Fergie. Too bad it doesn't even rhyme with the next line.

"Fergilicious"

"T to the A to the S T E Y, girl you're tasty"

Apparently, she's so tasty that Will.I.A. can't remember how to spell.

"London Bridge"

"How come every time you come around my London, London Bridge wanna go down?"

Did we ever figure out what this means?

Nirvana - "Smells Like Teen Spirit"

"A mulatto, an albino, a mosquito, my libido, Yay!"

I understand the analogy between the two skin colors but have always been confused by what a mosquito has to do with Kurt's libido. Only Courtney Love knows for sure.

50 Cent - "21 Questions"

"I love you like a fat kid love cake."

As bad (and grammatically incorrect) as this lyric is, it's at least a better simile than Fergie's.

The Turtles - "Happy Together"

"So happy together/how is the weather?"

Sometimes songwriters have a great deal of trouble finding a suitable rhyme. You win some, you lose some.

Elton John - "Your Song"

"If I was a sculptor, but then again, no"

Then why bother mentioning it? On the plus side, I always thought he made a much better musician.

Steve Miller Band - "The Joker"

"Some people call me Maurice, 'cause I speak of the pompitous of love."

I've checked all the dictionaries, and no, "pompitous" is not a word.

MIMS - "This is Why I'm Hot"

"I'm hot 'cause I'm fly, you ain't 'cause you're not, this is why, this is why, this is why I'm hot"

Well there you have it folks, the answer you all have been waiting for. You ain't 'cause you're not. It's as simple as that. I don't think this reasoning would go over so well in a debate, though.

Sugar Ray - "Fly"

"All around the world statues crumble for me/who knows how long I've loved you/everwhere I go people stop and they see/25 years old/My mother God rest her soul"

I was always so confused by this verse. Is he 25 or is his mother? Is she dead? And what do that and the statues have to do with him loving me?

Lil Mama - "Lip Gloss"

"They say my lip gloss is poppin'/my lip gloss is cool/all the boys keep jockin'/they chase me after school"

I'm sorry, girls, but no guy is gonna be "jockin'" simply because you've got sexy lip gloss on. I can tell you from personal experience that most guys find it annoying.

Third Eye Blind - "Slow Motion"

"Now the cops will get me/But girl, if you would let me/I'll take your pants off/I gotta a little bit of blow/we could both get off/after bathing in the afterglow/two lines of coke I'd cut with Drano/and her nose starts to bleed/a most beautiful ruby red"

Oh, Stephan Jenkis, you never cease to turn me on. The fact that you're a murderer and a drug dealer just makes you so much hotter. No wonder this song never made it onto their CD.

Now my procrastination does not penalize me. I can do what I need to do on Monday nights, then come home from my lab on Tuesday tired and annoyed at lab reports, turn on my computer and download last night's episode of *Heroes* without any commercials.

For 40 minutes I can escape

the hell of school in my bed with the covers up to my waist and pillows under my neck. With headphones in, I can't hear the inane conversations that plague dorm halls.

Better yet, I don't have to endure Enzyte commercials and the static on my friend's TV. With DC++ at one's disposal, having cable at school is unnecessary. I'm not sure who puts these episodes online, but thank you.

DC++ also has new episodes of *Scrubs*, *South Park* and *Grey's Anatomy*, but there's no guarantee that someone will upload certain shows. If your favorite show isn't on a major station, or if you resist the unlawful but convenient glory of DC++, network Web sites have been putting episodes online hours after airing.

As for shows on cable you don't have time to watch here, buy a TiVo or DVR (digital video recorder) and set a season recording for it over Thanksgiving break. Before I left for orientation, I set at least four season recordings.

I haven't yet decided how I will watch them, whether over a couple extremely unproductive days during Intersession, or gradually as I should.

While some of the addictions in this week's issue may seem somewhat comical, addiction can be a serious problem, possibly leading to both psychological and medical complications. If you or anyone you know is struggling with an addiction to something dangerous (such as drugs), please contact an addiction hotline or your health professional.

JHU Health & Wellness Center:
410-516-8270

Entrance next to Fresh Food Café on Homewood Campus

JHU Counseling Center:
410-516-8278

358 Garland Hall, Homewood Campus
Open 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday - Friday

Drug Addiction Referral Hotline (National):
1-888-268-9124 (Toll-free)

The National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Treatment Information Center (National):
1-800-784-6776 (Toll-free)



JOHN PRENDERGASS/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Smokers brave cold weather to spend time with their cigarettes and each other.

CARTOONS, ETC.

your Horoscope

Aries: (March 21 - April 19)
Every day you let go by without asking the woman who tops off the machiatto foam at Starbucks on a date is one more lost opportunity.

Taurus: (April 20 - May 20)
Thanksgiving arrives every year, and every year you can't seem to make those cranberries stop talking in your head. This is the year.

Gemini: (May 21 - June 20)
My former job, before I became an astrologist, was as a phone sex operator. Take my advice; it's better than Phonathon.

Cancer: (June 21 - July 22)
Uncle Tom's Cabin was a landmark book. *Uncle Ricky's Cantina*, on the other hand, is a bad investment.

Leo: (July 23 - August 22)
Fred Thompson played a lawyer on TV before running for president. You will follow in his footsteps and lose, just like him.

Virgo: (August 23 - Sept. 22)
Drinks are a great way to break the ice, especially if you are stuck in a lifeboat in the Arctic. But watch out for gin — it burns.

Libra: (Sept. 23 - October 22)
Too Short had a single called "Pimpin' Incorporated." You could try the rap game, but your parachute pants clash with your grills.

Scorpio: (October 23 - Nov. 21)
Much more than just large mammals, walri are, in fact, primarily responsible for running the British Parliament from their seabase.

Sagittarius: (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)
"And" is one of the most common words spoken by women. Your name, however, is one of the least common.

Capricorn: (Dec. 22 - January 19)
Ogles was a Hittite warlord in 1520 BC. You should take after him and work on your lethal combination of facial hair and camel feces.

Aquarius: (January 20 - Feb. 18)
My favorite film was once *March of the Penguins*, but now, I discovered that those penguins were actually puppets. 'Bout time I figured that out.

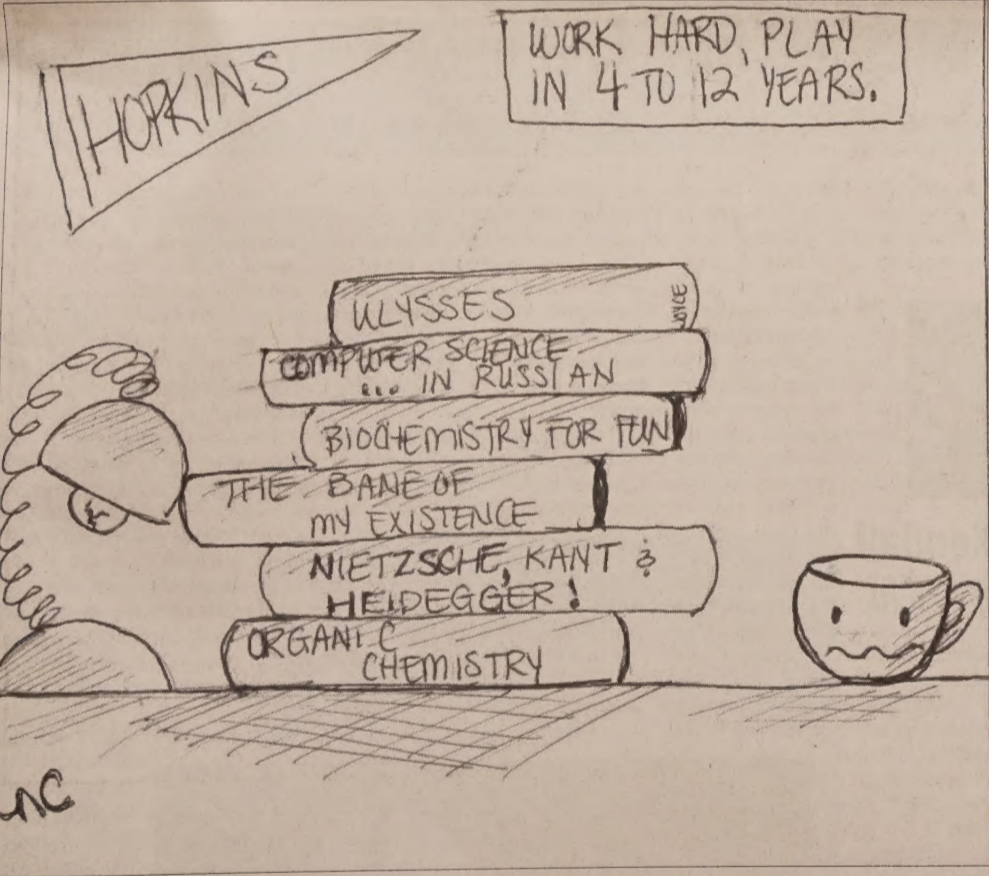
Pisces: (Feb. 19 - March 20)
Girlfriend is a generally a melodic term of endearment, until you hear Avril Lavigne say it.

Sudoku

		3		1	9		5	
				2		7		3
			5		6			7
7		8	5				1	
			2				8	
			1			9	2	4
5					3		7	
8				4		5		
	1			8	6		4	

Random Information

by Natachi Chukumerije



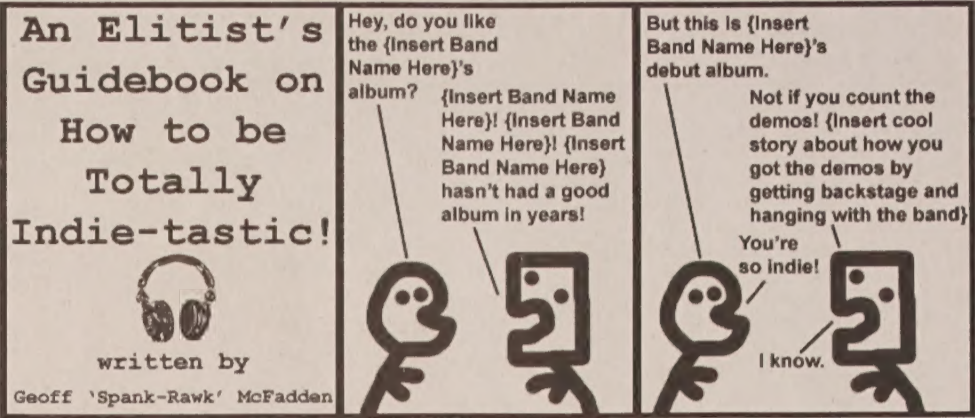
Third Person Objective

by B.G. Warner



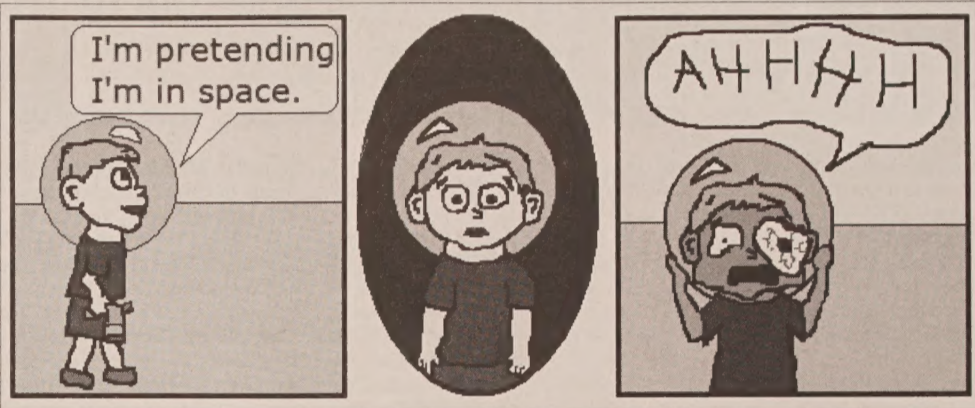
Comicali

by Joe Micali



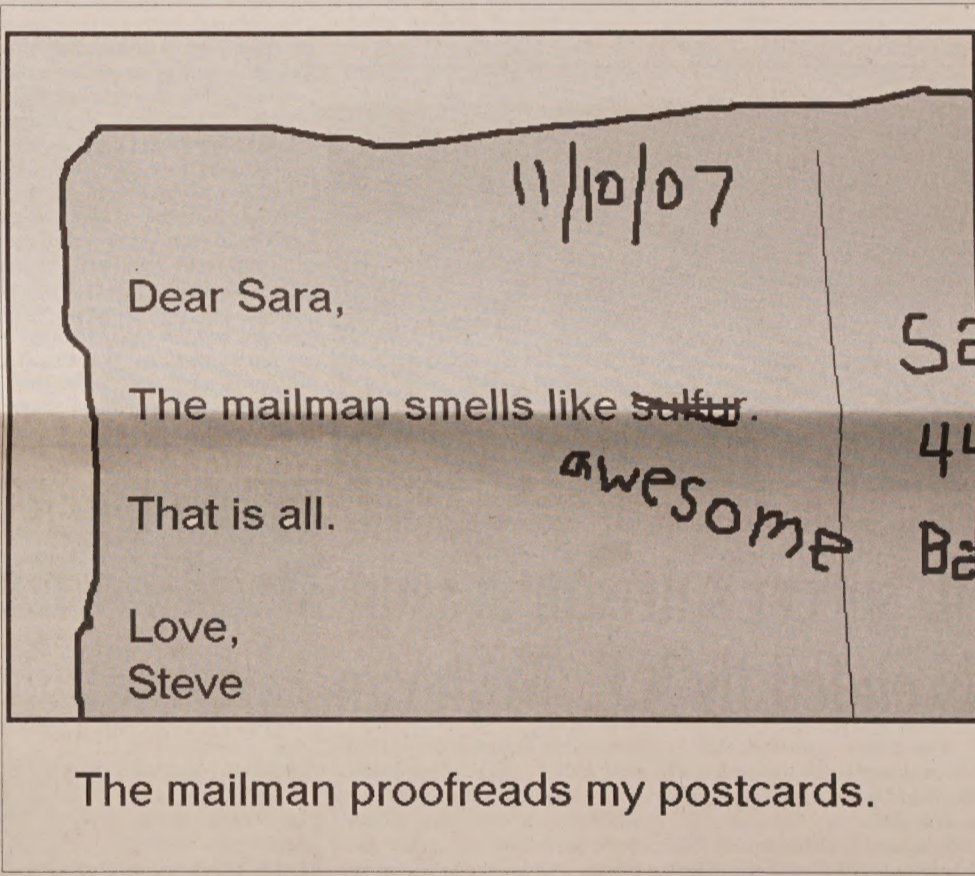
Wasted Ink

by Nate Min



A Photo in Time

by Nate Min



Greek Life at Hopkins: exposed!

Here are some little-known facts about the fraternities and sororities at Hopkins:

Sig Ep has a chocolate factory in their basement.

Alpha Phi counts among its alumni Diana Ross, Marie Curie, Madeleine Albright, Evander Holyfield and Shakira.

The big fat Goombah who just won back the hot dog-eating title is in AEPi.

So is the tiny Japanese dude he defeated for it.

One of the founding members of Pike led an extraordinary life, which was later the basis for a hit movie.

Richard Szkowski was a simple man with little brain activity but good intentions.

He struggled through childhood with his best and only friend Jenny. His mama taught him the ways of life and left him to choose his destiny.

Richard joined the army for service in Vietnam, finding new friends named Dan and Bubba. He won medals, started a table tennis craze, created a famous shrimp fishing fleet, inspired people to jog, created the smiley, wrote bumper stickers and songs, donated to people and causes and met the president several times.

However this was all irrelevant to Richard who could only think of his childhood sweetheart, Jenny, who had messed up her life. Although, in the end, all he wanted to prove was that anyone can love anyone. The film based on Szkowski's life, *Water-*

world, has been credited with single-handedly reviving John Travolta's career.

Phi Mu members are 78 percent more likely to list *"Legally Blonde 5: Elle Goes to Therapy and Works Through Some Serious Sh*t"* as one of their favorite movies.

WaWa is well-known for its creative, absurd and nearly-impossible pledge tasks, which have been given such cryptic codenames as "doing your homework," "eating dark, leafy greens" and "getting consent."

Beta is a front for the Communist Party of America.

How many Thetas does it take to screw in a light bulb? Wait — you know a guy named Light Bulb?

The Fiji house is rumored to be the site of both a former missile silo and a sacred Indian burial ground. Legend has it that during a full moon you can still hear Mrs. O'Leary's cow kicking Winston Churchill in the face.

Phi Mu members are 16 percent less likely not to be in an ironic Facebook marriage with Elle Woods.

The Sig Ep house is rumored to have an elevator that can move horizontally as well as vertically.

The basement of the former WaWa house was used as the set for the episode of *Seinfeld* in which George, Jerry Kramer and Elaine are lost in a parking garage.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the Sig Chi house has the highest George-Foreman-Grill-to-Human ratio in the country.

The Ziploc bag was invented by a former member of Alpha Phi.

How many members of Sig Ep does it take to screw in a light bulb? None, you idiot. The heat from the bulbs would melt all the chocolate.

The Beta house is on record as the only private residence in Maryland with a urinal.

Phi Psi members are 24 percent more likely to own a digital camera than dead people.

How many members of Phi Mu does it take to screw in a light bulb? Elle Woods.

Adar Eisenbruch Let's Talk

Phi Psi alumni include Michael Bloomberg, Scooby Doo and Captain Verigible Crunch.

Past Sigma Chi rush events have included five-mile jogs, humanitarian relief missions to Delaware and the Cold War.

Phi Mu members are 33 percent more likely to point to Elle Woods as a role model whose determination, intelligence and tenacity they would like to mimic while going through their divorces.

How many Kappa Kappa Gamma members does it take to screw in a light bulb? None. Their fingers are incandescent so they don't need light bulbs.

Sig Ep does not give their pledges bids; it gives them golden tickets.

SPORTS

W. soccer's playoff stretch pierced by Marlins

By ASA BEAL
News-Letter Staff Writer

Unfortunately for the Lady Jays soccer team, history repeated itself when the Virginia Wesleyan Marlins defeated Hopkins 2-0 on Saturday in the first round of the NCAA tournament. The loss ended a successful 14-5-2 season marked by the Lady Jays' third consecutive trip to the NCAA tournament and third consecutive Centennial Conference Championship.

Though last year's loss to Virginia Wesleyan occurred in the second round, play of the this year's game was not dissimilar. Last year's Blue Jay squad looked better on paper, entering their second-round game at 18-1-1. This year's squad faced off their 14-1-4 final opponent with a 14-5-1 record. Hopkins also came into the game knowing that the Marlins of 2006 had reached the final four of the NCAA tournament.

"We knew how well they had done last year," junior midfielder Jane O'Connor said. "We were prepared for a tough game."

And a tough game was what they got. Hopkins didn't score the whole game but struggled on offense, especially in the first half. The Jays had a few opportunities but just couldn't capitalize.

"We just didn't have the ball enough in the first half," Coach Leo Weil said.

After going down in the 24th minute on a goal from senior



CONOR KEVIT/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR
Senior defender Johanna Chapin blows past a defender in her final game as a Jay.

Marlin forward Laura Jackson, Hopkins had a chance to equalize when senior forward Kim Lane struck a shot that was just blocked by the Wesleyan goalkeeper. Despite the promise of this opportunity, Hopkins would muster only one other shot the rest of the half. Coach Weil explained three reasons for his team's struggle to taking control of the game.

"We needed to put a lot of pressure on them up front, we needed to win most of the 50-

50 balls and we needed to play strong defense," Coach Weil said. "We just didn't do those things."

Virginia Wesleyan was able to tame a Blue Jay offense that had out-scored its opponents by 20 goals its last nine games. The Marlins held Hopkins to just five total shots in the game, despite the fact that Hopkins had much more success attacking the goal in the second half.

Though Virginia Wesleyan was clearly a talented team coming in, the loss still hurts for Hopkins as it came after a dominating nine-game winning streak in which defense allowed only a single goal against Centennial Conference rival Muhlenberg College.

Despite their quick exit from the NCAA tournament, the team knows that the season was a successful one. After a mediocre (by Hopkins's standards) start to the year, including one stretch where the Jays dropped three games out of four, the ladies found themselves as the season progressed. The adjustment period was a time when the team

was able to come together and build what turned out to be a terrific season-ending run. Coach Weil described the improvement.

"Our team was totally different from last year's, both on and off the field, so it took us a while to figure out what formation to use and the best way to utilize our players," he said. "Once we got that figured out, everything fell into place."

The Jays will be graduating only four players from a team eager to build on the seniors' numerous accomplishments. Senior goalkeeper Kerry Hamilton, forward Kim Lane, defender Johanna Chapin and midfielder Cassandra Vogel will all be missed as players who excelled in their area of the field.

O'Connor, who will be one of the 2008 seniors taking the reins of the team, gave her thoughts on the 2007 campaign.

"I'm really proud of what we accomplished this year," O'Connor said. "It is my third conference championship in the team's third in a row, and I think that speaks for itself."

The magnitude of O'Connor and the rest of the team's accomplishments is truly impressive. Not only is the team's streak of three straight Centennial Conference championships a record for Hopkins teams, it also marks the only time that any team has won that many consecutive titles in the history of the Centennial Conference.

In addition, the Lady Jays' back-to-back-to-back NCAA tournament appearances are a record for Hopkins women's soccer. Though it is tempting to look forward to 2008 after a tough loss, the ladies should pat themselves on the backs for a historic season. Coach Weil gave his thoughts on the 2007 team: "Nobody wants to end the season on a loss, but every team except one does," Coach Weil said. "I was confident we would be good—it was just a matter of how good. I was really pleased with the season overall."

W. cross-country and Brandon head to NCAAs

Continued from Page B12
but the Jays kept up with the competition stride for stride. Carnegie Mellon junior Brian Harvey went on to earn the individual title with a time of 24:44 over the 8,000-meter course. The Jays' top finisher proved to be senior co-captain Patrick Brandon, who finished 13th overall individually with a personal best of 25:13.

Freshman Steve Tobochnik and junior Geoff Nunns were the next Hop-

kins runners to cross the line in a time of 25:55 and 25:58, respectively. Tobochnik's efforts helped earn him First Team All Regional Freshman honors. Senior co-captain James Bronson completed the course in 26:17. Sophomore David Sigmon and seniors Andrew Harrington and Jason Hortiatidis rounded out the seven with times of 26:37, 26:39 and 26:58.

Brandon, Tobochnik and Nunns each earned All-Regional honors, as Brandon advanced individually to the NCAA Championships for the first time in his collegiate career. "I'm really excited," Brandon said. "Even though we ended the season on a sour note by not qualifying as a team, we all ran some great individual times."

Tobochnik and Nunns finished two and three spots away from qualifying as individuals, as the top seven individuals earn spots in the championship meet.

The team's average time of 26 minutes, the best in recent years, was good enough for a fifth-place finish. The Jays fell behind four nationally ranked

teams, including the fourth-place Haverford.

The men's team fell short of their goal of beating No. 27-ranked Dickinson, hoping to improve their chances of earning an at-large bid for the national meet.

The top two teams earned automatic bids to the NCAA Championships to be held next weekend at St. Olaf College in Minnesota.

Additional at-large bids were awarded Sunday afternoon, securing the Hopkins women's team a spot at the national meet for the first time in its history.

This will be Paulsen's second trip to the national meet, where she competed individually last year and finished 52nd overall and second among all freshmen.

Paulsen said, "We all worked really hard, and it's good to have some payoff for all of our work. It's great that the whole team is going."

As the women's season continues, the men reflect on their own and look forward to next year.

"We have a pretty young team," Nunns said. "With Steve [Tobochnik] improving, and getting some good performances out of this year's freshman and sophomore classes, I think we're capable of beating Dickinson and going to nationals."

As the men, except for Brandon, look forward to Nunns's predictions for next season, the women have a more immediate future in mind.

They head to St. Olaf in Northfield, Minnesota to compete at 11 a.m.

We all worked really hard, and it's good to have some payoff for all of our work.

— LAURA PAULSEN, SOPHOMORE



CONOR KEVIT/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR
Sophomore goalie Matt Mierley celebrates the 2-0 overtime win against DeSales.

M. soccer's dream season is ended by N.C. Wesleyan

Continued from Page B12
red card, and had to be pulled off the field by Bulldog teammates and coaches.

Sophomore defenseman Nathan Wysk felt that the incident had a significant impact on the psyche of both teams.

"It definitely took a lot of wind out of them, though, to lose a captain just before overtime. From there, we were able to keep the ball even more than before, which allowed us to eventually win the game."

With regulation over, both teams prepared for two sudden death overtimes — with whichever team scoring first moving on to the second round of the tournament. Early in the first overtime, Carlson fired a hard shot toward the DeSales goal but it was cleared off the line.

But just 43 minutes into the second overtime, Wysk, from the top left corner of the box, chipped the ball toward the goal. And out of the scuffle, Bukoski headed the ball to the left of Riedmiller for the golden goal, giving Hopkins a 1-0 victory.

"There is no feeling like scoring the game winning goal in overtime," Bukoski said. "It is a dream scenario. Up until the goal, nothing really goes on in your head except that your team needs a goal. After the game, excitement was running all throughout the team."

Next up for Hopkins, on Sunday, Nov. 11, was the second-ranked Battling Bishops of North Carolina Wesleyan University (17-1).

Like against DeSales, both teams failed to score before half-time. The difference in this game was that N.C. Wesleyan outshot Hopkins 6-3 in the first half. In each of Hopkins's three losses during the regular season, they were outshot in the first half by their opponent.

"Coach said that the key to winning the second half and the game itself was to keep doing ex-

actly what we were doing in the first half — playing hard-nosed defense and counter-attacking when the opportunity presented itself," Carlson said. "He mentioned that everyone in the soccer world thought N.C. Wesleyan would really give it to us hard, but realistically we just needed to believe that we could give it just as much as we could take it — really, we just needed to give it to them hard and by shooting all we could on them."

But N.C. Wesleyan's consistent defense and offensive advantage paid off in the second half, as the Bishops' Daniel Jones took a lob pass from the left side of the field and headed it past Mierley to give them a 1-0 lead in the 57th minute.

Five minutes later, N.C. Wesleyan would attach another goal to their lead. After being awarded a penalty kick, Marco Kirsch fired the kick to Mierley's left to give the Bishops a 2-0 lead.

Hopkins had chances to bring the score close in the second half. In the 80th minute, freshman David Drake blasted a shot that hit off the crossbar, and in the 83rd minute, senior captain Ben McAbee's header was just tipped over the crossbar. Even though Hopkins outscored N.C. Wesleyan 8-6 in the second half, the Blue Jays failed to score in regulation for the second game in a row as their season ended with a 2-0 defeat.

The Blue Jays' season ended in defeat, but could hardly be called a failure. The Jays finished the season 18-4, which left them one win shy of tying the school record for most wins. The team also scored 81 goals this season, four shy of the record set in 2002, and outshot opponents by 290 goals.

Carlson summed up the season, saying, "We came into the season with lots of pressure to repeat the success we saw last year, and I think we did a great job making sure that we turned those expectations into intentions."

Two Sundays ago, two undefeated teams took the field in a match-up for which the world was waiting. In recent years it

has become the ultimate football rivalry. Patriots versus Colts. Manning versus Brady. Ever since the two teams rose to dominance, the battle has raged on. Manning's collected the MVPs; Brady's collected the Superbowl rings. They've traded off wins and losses for years, making each new season a mystery as to who will take the crown.

When the Colts faced off against the Patriots this season, the undying question was answered — at least for now. As a New England fan, seeing the Pats edge out a close victory against the Colts was more than satisfying. However, nothing topped seeing Peyton Manning sulk his way to the locker room with his helmet still strapped on.

Indianapolis's loss to the Patriots was not an embarrassment. It was a game where each minor detail swinging one way or the other spelled either victory or defeat. In the long run, the loss was just a loss. However, what is important, especially with playoffs drawing nigh, is whether Manning and the Colts would bounce back from their defeat. Their test came this past Sunday in San Diego.

If Indianapolis was punched-drunk after the New England beating, then they were definitely hungover when they faced the Chargers. It was a night of fatal errors, poor play-calling and questionable leadership. The Colts that stepped into Qualcomm Stadium on Sunday night were not the Colts anyone expected to see.

Peyton Manning, the Indianapolis franchise's poster-boy, did set a franchise record

against the Chargers, though it's not likely he'll be bragging about it. Manning threw six interceptions in Sunday's game against a relatively mediocre pass defense.

Three of Manning's interceptions were thrown in the opening quarter. Granted, he was without two of his key receivers (Harrison and Gonzalez), but shouldn't his self-touted "laser-rocket arm" have taken care of that problem?

Manning wasn't the only Colt who faced problems on the

were looking for redemption on Sunday but found only disappointment. Sunday's loss put the Colts a mere one game ahead of division rivals Jacksonville and Tennessee. Was the loss against San Diego just a loss, or has falling apart under pressure become part of the Colts' character?

Take a look at history. Before he led his team to a Superbowl Championship in 2006, Peyton Manning was known as a choke artist in the playoffs. Despite regular season dominance, Manning and the Colts could never seem to get it together when the season was on the line. In 2003, they fell to the Patriots in the AFC Championship, and again in the 2004 Divisional playoffs.

Last year it appeared Manning overcame the chip on his shoulder, but does that mean he's cured? With a Superbowl title under his belt and a ring on his finger, Colts fans are looking for a repeat season in 2007, and after the losses to New England and San Diego, it appears that Peyton is feeling the pressure.

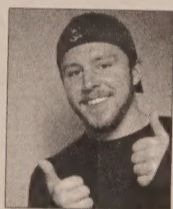
However, the mystery of Vinatieri remains still unsolved. Back in his days as a Patriot, the Pro Bowl kicker could be counted on to nail almost every field goal in every situation.

His accuracy and grace under pressure earned him the nicknames "Automatic Adam" and "Iceman." At the time, he was the only sure thing in the NFL.

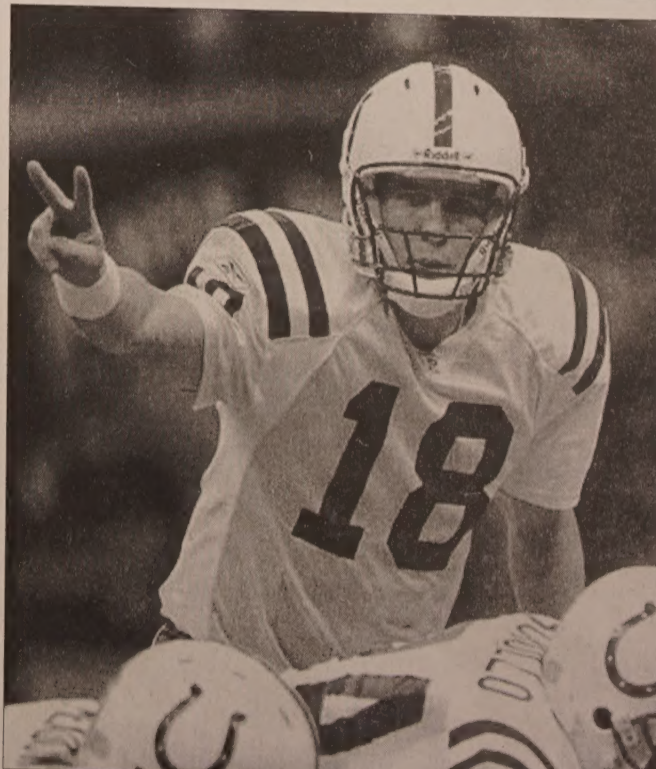
Now in Indianapolis, the glory seems to have faded slightly. In 2006, Vinatieri missed his first field goal in Indianapolis's RCA Dome — he was perfect in Indy as a Patriot. He missed a 36-yarder in last year's Superbowl, and last Sunday, he made two clutch misses against San Diego.

This flop of legends leads one to ask if are the Colts are simply making dumb mistakes, or does Indy face a curse when the stakes are high?

Manning, Vinatieri and the Colts look to answer this question next week. With the pressure for redemption on their backs, Indianapolis makes the trip to Kansas City, Mo. next Sunday.



Demian Kendall
Out of Left Field



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Peyton Manning was one of Indianapolis's many disappointments in Sunday's game.

In 2005, after a phenomenal 14-2 season, they fell short to the underdog Pittsburgh Steelers who had just scraped by with a wildcard seed.

Players, coaches and fans

SPORTS

Basketball shooting high for 2007

Continued from page B12
very least, O'Connell should be able to take over Polster's role as the team's sixth man.

With the experience the team has at the guard spot, they are equally inexperienced down low.

The team lost over 65 percent of its rebounds from last year's team due to graduation and return only two players who averaged more than two rebounds per game.

Senior co-captain Kevin Roach is the only returning forward to have played in every game last season, so the team will be relying on contributions from sophomores Adam Baumgartner and Andrew Farber-Miller as well as freshman John Alberici.

"All three of the big guys have a lot of potential," Nelson said, giving high praise to his young trio. "I need to keep everything in perspective, though, because we are playing so many new guys down low."

In a scrimmage on Friday against York College, a team only

two years removed from an appearance in the final four, Hopkins and its big men did more than hold their own against the Spartans.

"The post players were not intimidated at all," Nelson said after the scrimmage.

"We're going to make rookie mistakes all year, but they're not intimidated, so that was encouraging."

The scrimmage, which consisted of three 20-minute periods, saw Hopkins tie the first period. The score remained tight as the Jays lost the second period by one point and the third by three points.

"We surprised ourselves a little bit," Polster said about the York game. "And I think we're going to surprise a lot of teams in the conference."

If the Centennial Conference preseason poll is any indication, the conference will be very surprised by Polster's prediction of Hopkins's basketball success. The coaches and sports information directors of the confer-

ence picked Hopkins to finish fourth in their preseason poll. Hopkins was also the only program picked to finish in the top six conference teams that did not receive a single first-place vote.

"There are three good teams in front of us, but we know we can beat them," Polster said.

"Coming into this year, people are counting us out, but we think we should make it to the conference championship and win it."

Nelson knows his team can repeat as conference champions as well but puts it a bit differently.

"I don't think we should put pressure on ourselves to repeat something we haven't done in 21 years," Nelson said, referring to last year's incredible season.

"I never have a goal of a certain number of wins. My goal is just to make the conference playoffs and then anything can happen."

The season finally gets underway this Friday as Hopkins looks to win its sixth straight Blue Jay Invitational, a tournament hosted in the Goldfarb Gymnasium.

The tip-off for this year's opening-round game against the Carnegie Mellon Tartans is set for 8 p.m. The championship and consolation games will be played this Saturday.

Hopkins will then host the Provident Pride of Maryland Tournament over Thanksgiving break and open its conference season at Franklin and Marshall College in Lancaster, Pennsylvania on Wednesday, November 28.

"The start of the season is going to be tough and we're going to face a lot of adversity all year," Nelson said. "How we handle that is going to be what's most important."



SHIV GANDHI/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Senior linebacker Adam Winter makes his last career tackle against a McDaniel victim in the team's last 2007 game on Saturday.

Football reigns over Green Terror

Blue Jays go all out against McDaniel in season's final game, scaring Green Terror by 28 points

By KATIE MOODY
News-Letter Staff Writer

In the final showdown of the regular season, the Hopkins football team demolished the competition last Saturday, Nov. 10, when they plowed over McDaniel (1-9) in a 31-3 shellacking.

This was the 86th meeting between the two division rivals. Unfortunately for the Green Terror, the team was just not a match for coach Jim Margraff and the Blue Jays. The victory over McDaniel brought Hopkins's record for the year to 4-6 overall and 3-5 in the Centennial Conference; it also marked the seventh straight win for Hopkins against the rival.

Just seconds after the opening kickoff was booted into the arms of senior defensive back Rich-

ard Hill, Hopkins would take the lead and never look back. Playing in the final game of his career, Hill returned the kickoff 90 yards, putting the Blue Jays on the board with seven points.

The kickoff return was a first for Hill and it was also the first returned for a touchdown by a Hopkins player since September 1999.

When asked what was going through his mind before and during the return, Hill humbly explained the experience.

"When I stepped on the field I was a little nervous, but excited. I was hoping they would kick it to me because I knew there was a good chance I could return it, especially because I was confident in my blockers — the majority of which were seniors," he said.

"When I got the ball I was just trying to find a hole, and when it opened up I hit it. After that, I knew if I could get past the kicker I could score and that is exactly what happened."

After Hill's jump-start to the game, the Jays kept the momentum going on both sides of the ball.

Sophomore running back Andrew Kase, who rushed 35 times for a career-high 227 yards and one touchdown, helped the offense steamroll over any hope of a McDaniel victory.

Kase helped Hopkins maintain possession of the ball for nearly 34 minutes and the offense created 380 total yards.

In addition, the spectacular playing of the defense kept the ball out of the Green Terror's hands, keeping them to just 193 yards of offense, 52 of which were on the ground, allowing them to score only three points in the game.

In Hopkins's first possession, Kase carried eight times for 66 yards and one reception for seven yards, and after a 92-yard drive, he took the 14th play in for a 4-yard rushing touchdown.

The Jays were up 14-0 with just over four minutes left in the first quarter. The 14-point lead would remain uncontested until the first play of the second quarter, when McDaniel was faced with a second-and-nine from their own 16-yard line.

Green Terror quarterback Tom Wenrich rolled to his right, hesitated and threw to the sideline, right into the wide open hands of Hopkins senior linebacker Adam Winter.

Winter snatched the ball at the 12-yard line, and jogged it down the sidelines, barely in-bounds and brought the ball into the end zone making the score 21-0.

The Jays headed into the locker room at halftime with spirits high and expectations even higher. After a few quick adjustments, they re-took the field in hopes of extending their lead. The Jays did just that when they made the

score 28-0 late in the third quarter when freshman quarterback Max Islinger tossed an 18-yard touchdown pass to fellow freshman wide receiver Tucker Michels.

As the fourth quarter began, Kase only needed one more carry to put his season total up over 1,000 yards. This came true when he carried the ball eight yards from the McDaniel 24 to give him a total of 1,002.

Kase's gain set freshman place kicker Alex Lachman at the 30-yard line to boot it right through the uprights, giving Hopkins a 31-0 lead with 10 minutes left in the game.

Hopkins was hoping to end their season with a shut-out.

Unfortunately, right after Lachman's field goal, Wenrich orchestrated an 11-play drive that was sealed with a 28-yard field goal by place kicker Jay Leonard to end the game.

Hopkins displayed amazing offense in the match up. Kase's 227 yards on the ground is the fourth-best single-game total in Hopkins history and Kase's sixth 100-yard game of the season.

Islinger made an impressionable start to his career when he was 8-of-20 for 118 yards, one touchdown and one interception. Islinger made senior wide receiver Corey Sattler his favorite target when he threw the ball to the captain six times for a total of 101 yards.

Were the guys expecting to have such a great game? Did Kase "feel" the 227 yards in him before running out onto the field? He offered his insight.

"We didn't really do anything different to prepare for McDaniel," he said.

"It was a rivalry game, it was the seniors' last game and we came out really ready to go," he said enthusiastically.

"McDaniel allowed 200 yards rushing for each of the previous two weeks, so we knew their run defense could be exploited, but I wouldn't say I expected to have quite that big of a game," he said.

On the other side of the pigskin, the defense did their own bit of exploiting. Both senior defensive back Dan Requena and senior linebacker Ryan Johnston had interceptions in the last game of their career and senior safety Zach Rosswog added a team-high eight tackles in his final outing.

In addition to the amazing overall numbers that the Jays put up, Hill was named the Centennial Conference Special Teams Player of the week. He attributes hard work and a steady plan to his and his team's success against McDaniel.

"It started with our coaches giving us a great game plan. Then we just worked hard all week on the field, watched films and it all fell into place on Saturday," Hill said.



SHIV GANDHI/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Junior guard Collin Kamm starts the season off in the Blue Jays' scrimmage over the weekend.

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK LAURA PAULSEN, CROSS COUNTRY

Laura Paulsen simply isn't a typical Athlete of the Week

By MARY DOMAN
Sports Editor

Unlike previous athletes of the week, this week's athlete doesn't mess around with magic, robots, Brazilian sports stars or Cinnamon Toast Crunch. Sophomore women's cross country runner Laura Paulsen doesn't like to complicate things when it comes to what she's good at: running fast.

Paulsen is actually a two-time athlete of the week winner. Last year, she earned the *News-Letter* title after winning three consecutive races. This year, after placing an impressive second in the NCAA Midwest Regional this weekend, she's given quite an encore performance to earn the award again.

"I think that instead of being athlete of the week, the girls' cross country team should be more like a team of the week. They've all really helped me throughout the entire season and have all worked tremendously hard," Paulsen said.

This help consists of junior Rachel Hogen, sophomores Mira Patel and Mary O'Grady, and junior Emma Hiza. Together, the five will represent Hopkins in the NCAA Championship on Saturday.

Before the race, will Paulsen, like so many other athletes of the week, perform highly complex lucky rituals? Not at all. "I generally try to eat pasta the night before a race and oatmeal the morning of, but that has varied. So I don't think I have any super-lucky rituals or superstitions," Paulsen said.

What is the secret to her speed, then? One motto that she has stuck with since last year still rings true to Paulsen.

"Run happy."

For most, staying happy while running year-round would be quite a task. For Paulsen, though, it comes naturally. "Even if I start

as a biomedical engineer. After graduation, she plans on attending medical school. From there, she plans to become an orthopedic surgeon. Contrary to many previous "undecided" athletes of the week, Paulsen's got it all planned out — thanks to running.

"Running really helps manage stress and also makes you more organized because you have to make room for practice and meets."

Paulsen, though, wasn't always so sure of her ways. She started running in her freshman year of high school almost by chance.

"Cross country was the only sport that didn't have tryouts, so since I didn't know anyone, having just moved to the area, and wanted to

join a sports team, cross country was kind of my last resort," she said.

"I was really slow at the beginning of the season, but then I remember running behind this one girl who did this terribly annoying outward kick every time she took a stride and I was like, 'Ah! That is so annoying! I have to beat this girl!'"

We'll never know who that outward-kick girl was, but Hop-

a run not feeling so hot, by the end I feel great. It must be those crazy endorphins."

According to the American Heritage Medical Dictionary, an endorphin is "any of a group of peptide hormones that bind to opiate receptors and are found mainly in the brain. Endorphins reduce the sensation of pain and affect emotions."

Paulsen's vocabulary may be a side effect from her education



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VITAL STATISTICS

Year: Sophomore
Major: Biomedical Engineering

Hopkins Highlights:
Placed second at Centennial Championships, third at Lewis and Clark Pioneer Open.

SPORTS

THIS DAY IN SPORTS

2004 -- Barry Bonds wins his fourth consecutive NL MVP award.

2005 -- The MLB and the players union agree to increase the punishment for steroid and illegal drug use. They also ordered random drug tests to be taken throughout the season.

CALENDAR

FRIDAY

M. Basketball vs. Carn. Mellon 8 p.m.

SATURDAY

W. Basketball vs. Wesley 1 p.m.

W. cross country earns at-large bid to NCAAs

By MIKE YUAN
News-Letter Staff Writer

The freezing cold temperature wasn't enough to stop the men's and women's cross country teams from their best finishes in school history this weekend. Goodman Field in Bethlehem, Penn.

was the site of the NCAA Division III Mid-east Regional meet, where the men's team finished fifth overall and the women's team finished third overall, earning the program's first trip to the NCAA Championships. Senior Patrick Brandon was the only individual

on the men's side to qualify for the NCAA Championships. It was the second time this season the Blue Jays competed on the course, the first time being at the Paul Short Invitational held on Sept. 28.

The women raced in a field of 45 teams to a third place finish, losing only to No. 12-ranked Dickinson and No. 16-ranked Haverford. The pace was set early by Elizabethtown senior Erin Fisher, who went on to win the race in 21 minutes and 18 seconds. The Jays, who entered Saturday's competition with a No. 3 regional ranking, were led by sophomore Laura Paulsen, who placed fourth

overall individually with a personal best time of 21:48 over the 6,000-meter course. Paulsen was followed by junior Rachel Hogen and sophomores Mira Patel and Mary O'Grady, who clocked in at 22:35, 22:58 and 22:58 respectively. Junior Emma Hiza finished fifth for the team with a time of 23:18,

while the group of seven was rounded out by freshmen Meagan Brower and Christina Valerio, with times of 23:23 and 23:54.

"Our goal was to qualify for nationals, and we knew that in order to accomplish that, we had to go after Haverford."

sophomore Mira Patel said. "Although we didn't catch Haverford, we were still able to reach our main goal of qualifying for nationals."

The girls all improved their times by a range of 14 to 63 seconds from their times at the Paul Short Invite earlier this season. The individual improvements helped earn Paulsen, Hogan and Patel All-Regional honors, and Brower 2nd Team All-Regional Freshmen honors.

On the men's side, the Jays entered the competition ranked fifth in the region. The race was taken out in a blistering pace,

CONTINUED ON PAGE B10

M. soccer's dream season comes to a close

By ERIC GOODMAN
News-Letter Staff Writer

Win or go home.

This is often the true, yet hard to swallow mantra of play-off sports. The Hopkins men's soccer team, which finished one win shy of tying a school record, knew that the playoffs were their second season. A win, and they would play again in the near future. A loss, and they would play again next September.

"That is the unique thing about the NCAA tournament," freshman Scott Bukoski said. "Only one team gets to end its season with a win."

Coach Matt Smith's team earned its second consecutive automatic bid to the NCAA Division III tournament on Nov. 4, when they defeated Gettysburg College 4-1 in the final of the Centennial Conference tournament. Last year, the team made it to the Elite 8 of the NCAA tournament, where they lost to defending champion Messiah. Looking to make it that far in this year's tournament, the Jays would have to start by winning consecutive games on back-to-back nights under the proverbially historic watch of Homewood Field.

The first game was played on Saturday, Nov. 10 against the DeSales University Bulldogs. Hopkins had already defeated DeSales 2-0 during the Citrano Medical Labs Kickoff Classic at Homewood. But with a win or go home mentality, both teams knew that this time around the stakes were much higher.

"Facing DeSales earlier in



SHIV GANDHI/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Freshman forward David Drake fights off a DeSales defender in the grueling overtime of the first game of the NCAA playoffs.

the year definitely helped us to prepare for the game," sophomore goalkeeper Matt Mierley said. "But, like us, they had time to grow and develop as a team, so we were expecting anything. We just had to go out and execute our game plan."

In their first meeting, Hopkins outshot the Bulldogs 26 to 11, and the Jays played this game with a similar level of offensive intensity. While Hopkins managed to get off eight shots in the first half, including several shots within close proximity of the goal by Bukoski, the Jays were not able to put any

points on the board.

On defense, sophomore captain Tommy McQueen and Mierley made sure that DeSales did not get as many opportunities on offense as their teammates had. DeSales only got off two shots in each half, and for most of the game, the ball possession remained close to the DeSales goal. At halftime, the score was 0-0.

"Coach simply told us the game was ours for the taking," junior captain Matt Carlson said.

Scoring remained stagnant in the second half, but this was not for a lack of effort from the

Blue Jay offense. Hopkins had 11 shots on goal in the second half, including six in a four-minute span, from the 62nd minute to the 66th minute, but failed to get the ball past DeSales goalkeeper Rusty Riedmiller, who finished with 12 saves.

With the game set to go into overtime with a 0-0 tie in the 90th minute, tempers began to flair as junior defenseman and captain Ethan Mulligan got into a scuffle with DeSales' Andrew Marshall, leading members from each team to rush over to defend their respective teammates. A livid Marshall was given

CONTINUED ON PAGE B10

Basketball preview: the young stars

Hopkins graduated five starters from last year's team, leaving this year's season in question

By MAX DWORIN
News-Letter Staff Writer

Coming off a season in which the Hopkins men's basketball team finished with a 24-5 record, won the Centennial Conference and made an appearance in the second round of the NCAA tournament, one would not expect there to be many questions surrounding this year's Blue Jay squad.

Unfortunately the Blue Jays lost five seniors from last year's record-setting team, including three starters who were all-Centennial Conference selections, making a repeat of last year's success unlikely.

Coach Bill Nelson, who is in his 22nd season as head coach of the Blue Jays, knows this season may be an uphill battle but is still very optimistic.

"We lost a tremendous amount of experience, not just statistically but leadership-wise," Nelson said.

Nelson, however, does not dwell on the loss of his three leading scorers, Matt Griffin, Danny Nawrocki and T.J. Vale-

rio, to graduation. Instead, he is quick to point out the potential of his front-court and the experience of his guards.

Senior shooting guard and co-captain Doug Polster is the most experienced member of this year's back-court. Although he came off the bench last year as the team's sixth man, he finished

being penciled in each game, there is competition at the point. Junior Collin Kamm averaged 2.2 assists per game last season after he was called on to lead the offense after then-sophomore Scott Weisenfeld tore his ACL in the pre-season. Weisenfeld, who averaged 2.4 assists per game in limited action his freshman year, is now a healthy junior who should be back as the primary ball-handler.

Polster thinks his fellow guards are so talented that he likes the idea of sacrificing some of his own playing time for them.

"With our two point guards no one can compete with us in the backcourt," Polster said. "We may even put both of them in at the same time."

A sleeper at the guard position on this year's team is sophomore Pat O'Connell. O'Connell, like Polster, came off the bench last year and was a real spark plug.

He has been hurt throughout the preseason, but Nelson hopes to get him into the starting lineup eventually. At the

CONTINUED ON PAGE B11



SHIV GANDHI/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Sophomore guard Pat O'Connell, a sleeper for this year, takes the ball upcourt.

the year averaging 8.6 points per game and will be counted on to shoulder much of the offensive load this season.

"He was unbelievable off the bench last year," Nelson said of Polster. "He really lit the fire."

Unlike the shooting guard spot, where Polster's name will

INSIDE

Women's Soccer: Hopkins Knocked Out

After a spectacular season, the Conference Champion Hopkins women's soccer team fell short in the NCAA playoffs. What is the future for this squad of champions? Page B10

Athlete of the Week: Laura Paulsen

Laura Paulsen is a young woman who knows exactly what she wants. She's torn up the cross-country circuit this season simply for the love of the sport. Page B11

Football: Jays Destroy Terror

In the final game of the season, the Blue Jays squared off against their rivals, the McDaniel Green Terror. The team ended a dismal season on a high note with the win. Page B11

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